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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIII.—NO. 18. WEEKLY EDITION. MARCH 11, 1876.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 2, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 10 A. M.

Messrs. Newmyer and McNeill presented petitions from citizens of Pittsburgh praying for a law enlarging the Jurisdiction of aldermen in cities of the second and third class in the Commonwealth.

Bills Introduced.—Mr. McNeill—Act requiring the payment of expenses incurred in calling out militia to suppress riots or domestic insurrection.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny—Act to repeal an act to regulate the execution and transfer of notes given for patent rights.

Bills on Third Reading—To repeal section four of an act to incorporate the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society, approved March 29, 1851. Passed.

Act authorizing an increase of the indebtedness of any city of the second class in the Commonwealth. Debated and lost for the want of a constitutional majority—yeas 21, nays 14.

Bills on Second Reading.—Joint resolution providing for a special committee to investigate the causes of disputes and difficulties between employer and employed in the coal business of the Commonwealth, and to report such legislation as they may deem most effectual for the speedy adjustment and settlement of such disputes. After discussion, postponed indefinitely.

Act to prohibit persons from carrying or discharging firearms at other persons within this Commonwealth. Agreed to.

Act to repeal an act entitled "A supplement to several acts incorporating the city of Pittsburgh, enlarging its boundaries," &c.

Mr. Lowry spoke in favor of the bill, after which it was unanimously, on resolution of Mr. Newmyer, referred to the General Judiciary Committee for examination and a report on the constitutionality of the bill.

A resolution was adopted to hold afternoon sessions hereafter on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 4 to 6.

A resolution was adopted inviting John W. Forney to address the Legislature upon the subject of his Centennial experience in Europe. Messrs. Jones, Strang, Herr, Nagle and Yerkes were appointed a committee to wait on him. President Davis was also made an *ex-officio* member. The Senate resumed consideration of

Bills on Second Reading—Act to authorize the establishment of schools for the education of deaf mutes in certain cases. Passed.

Act to amend and consolidate the several acts relating to game and game fish. Amended and passed.

Act authorizing the Commissioners of the several counties to fix the compensation for the right, rent and use of election districts in their respective counties. Passed.

Further supplementary act regulating elections in the Commonwealth.

An act empowering courts to appoint associations to employ a police force. Passed.

Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of commercial companies, and companies to receive and execute certain trusts, whether by way of mortgages or otherwise, relating to the estates of individuals and the estates and franchises of corporations. Passed.

Act for the relief of Levi Simpson, a soldier of the war of 1812. Passed.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 A. M.

Mr. Lusk withdrew from the Pittsburgh Water Works Investigating Committee, and Mr. Graff, of Beaver, was substituted in his place.

On motion of Mr. Lusk, the number of the committee was increased to seven, and the Chair appointed Messrs. Wimmer and Miner. The committee will commence the investigation the early part of next week.

Bills Read in Place—Mr. Toner—Act to enable the Commonwealth to sell vacant lands.

Act to transfer the Marine Hospital in the city of Erie to the Trustees of the University.

Act to empower courts of the Commonwealth to restrain parties from erecting iron tanks for storing petroleum in close proximity to combustible property, or other dangerous localities.

Bills on Second Reading—Act to carry into effect Section five of the Constitution, relative to county officers. The consideration of this bill occupied the remaining hours of the morning session.

Mr. Zern called up the act to provide for the proper representation of the mineral resources of Pennsylvania at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. Passed first reading.

Act making an appropriation to provide for an educational display at the Centennial Exposition and to erect suitable schoolhouses or other building, for that purpose. Passed second reading.

The act fixing the compensation of county officers of counties containing less than 150,000 inhabitants, providing for the payment of all fees received by them into the county treasury, was called up on second reading, when a motion was adopted that the House hold a special session next Wednesday evening, at 7:30, for the purpose of considering the bill.

Act to prevent the sale by auction sale or mock auction at auction in any city, borough or township by other than licensed venders and auctioneers. Passed second reading.

The House met at 4 P. M. and resumed consideration of the bill relative to the salaries of county officers. After some few additional amendments the bill was ordered to a second reading. The bill, as amended, cuts off all perquisites of county officials.

Mr. Long called up the Hillside Slope bill. Passed second reading, after being amended to apply to cities of the third and fourth classes.

Adjourned.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

LONDON PAPERS ON OUR SCANDAL.

LONDON, March 4.—The *Times*, this morning, says editorially of the Belknap scandal: "This event is more grave because it is confirmatory of a suspicion which has long prevailed among the American people. Even we Europeans notice but too surely with the altered tone in which Americans speak, if not of their institutions, at least of the men who have the present direction of them."

The *News*, alluding to the same subject, says: "American political life seems to be in anything but a healthy condition." It refers to the whisky fraud trials, the Emma Mine scandal and the downfall of Belknap, and says that these scandals lift the veil from a class of society which it was hitherto generally supposed had not as yet escaped the impurities of the social strata below, and they lead one to fear that some of the worst vices of municipal government may be percolating into the Federal Administration.

The *Telegraph* says: "Disclosures after disclosures, charges after charges, varying in degrees of truth, but all with the same ugly and untoward character, have lately darkened the commercial, religious, judicial and administrative institutions of the United States. Some have proved false, others true, and more await evidence; but the general effect, beyond denial, has been and is to bring the blush of shame and anxiety into the face of all honest Americans, and to make countless friends of the Republic in this country silent and sorrowful, while its enemies rejoice over these recurring revelations."

The *Standard* says: "Happily the countries are few where so gross an abuse of trust would be possible."

WRIT SERVED ON MINISTER SCHENCK ON THE DEFALCATION CASE IN AMERICA.

LONDON, March 4.—The *London Hour* has the following: "We understand that a writ, returnable in the Queen's Bench, was served upon Mr. Schenck, United States Minister, yesterday, at the instance of the Emma Mining Company. The writ was served as Mr. Schenck was entering the train at Euston station. Mr. Schenck referred the officer to Lord Derby.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Adin Murder Trial at Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, March 4.—In the Adin murder trial the argument closed to-day, the jury retiring at 5 P. M. and are still out (11 P. M.). A disagreement is looked upon as almost certain, and much indignation is felt in consequence. A rumor prevails that eleven of the jury are for conviction and one for acquittal. A large crowd is about the court room, waiting for the jury to come in.

Later—The jury in the Adin murder case at one o'clock brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree. The prisoner was sentenced to be hanged June 22.

A Card From Hon. George H. Anderson.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

I take this method of answering the numerous inquiries of friends whether I shall be a candidate for renomination in the Forty-third Senatorial district.

I have concluded to become a candidate, believing it to be the general desire of my constituents. My record is before the public, and, if satisfactory, I should be gratified to receive the support of Republican friends in the forthcoming convention.

March 6, 1876. GEO. H. ANDERSON.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2, 1876.

Downfall of Secretary Belknap.

The sole topic of conversation in all circles to-day, is the astounding developments made concerning Secretary Belknap. Rumors that he would be presented to the House for impeachment were flying around town early this morning, but not much confidence was placed in them, until it was definitely ascertained that he had tendered his resignation and that it had been accepted. The particulars of the affair were not known till later this afternoon, and the feeling of regret is general that one holding such a high position should have fallen into such disgrace. It is understood that the main cause of the fall of General Belknap was the fatal temptation to cut a figure in Washington society beyond his means. His present wife was the sister of his former wife, and, like her, is a woman of cultivation and beauty, and ambitious to be a leader of society. She has always been regarded as the best-dressed woman in Washington, ordering her wardrobe from Paris, every article being of the most expensive material and made in the most elaborate manner. General Belknap has no means whatever beyond his salary, although the style of living of himself and wife calls for much more than that amount. Those who have been his friends are astounded at what he has done—none more so than the President, who had put every confidence in him. When the President accepted his resignation this morning, he had no idea that the affair was as bad as it has since proved to be. Leading Republican members of Congress say that if he is guilty as charged, he should be punished to the full extent of the law. General Belknap has been called on by a number of parties to-night. He declines to make any public statement in reference to the charges against him, until he can do so before the Senate in an official form. Both he and Mrs. Belknap are terribly prostrated.

Pay of Congressmen.

Senator Casserly says that when the Legislative Appropriation bill comes before the Senate, he shall move to put the compensation of members of Congress at eight dollars per day, the rate which prevailed before the war. He thinks this will be amply sufficient.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 5, 1876.

Belknap's Escape Prevented—Police In and Around His House.

Last night, shortly before midnight, information was received by the Secret Service Division of the Treasury which led to the suspicion of a design on the part of General Belknap to clandestinely leave the city. Several officers of the division were immediately detailed to shadow his residence. In the meantime the Attorney General and the District Attorney were both notified of the circumstances present; both were decisive in the opinion that if any such design was attempted it must be prevented at all hazards. The officers remained at their posts all night, and observed a suspicious movement of lights about the house, which confirmed their information. They were also soon satisfied, by the reconnoitering from the inside, that their presence had been discovered. Early this morning the front door was opened by Mrs. Belknap, who called one of the officers in. She stated that his errand was known, that it would be more agreeable to him to remain where he was outside the house, and she therefore wanted the officer to remain indoors. He complied with her request. After remaining an hour or two, the officer at this time he saw nothing of General Belknap, Mrs. Belknap desired him to leave the house, because the officers on the outside had not withdrawn and she was thus relieved of the annoyance. The officer bowed himself out and remained at his watch with his associates. Some time after it was ascertained that Belknap had been seen of General Belknap it would be as well to be certain that he was in the house. The bell was rung by an officer, who sent up his card. The card was brought down that General Belknap declined to see him. The officer then demanded to see him. General Belknap then came down stairs, his eyes red and swollen with weeping, his mind evidently under the influence of liquor, and he looked a wreck of the handsome and magnificent Secretary of War. The officer, being satisfied of his bodily presence, did not prolong the painful interview, and retired. This morning the District Attorney obtained from the Police Judge of the District an order of arrest, in the event of General Belknap's attempted escape. To-night the Secret Service force was withdrawn and a detail of the Metropolitan Police substituted, with orders to watch the premises until further orders, two of the force being inside the house.

The Court of Impeachment.

The statement that the Chief Justice will preside at the trial of General Belknap is entirely erroneous. That officer goes only at the trial of the President of the United States. The President of the Senate is the proper officer in this case. The Senate Impeachment Committee decided last night that they would not raise the question of the jurisdiction of the Senate, but allow it to be brought up by the counsel for Belknap and to be met by the managers of the House, the Senate then to decide.

Belknap's Counsel.

Ex-Attorney General Jeremiah Black, ex-Senator Carpenter and Montgomery Blair have been retained as counsel for Belknap.

The Escape of Marsh.

The committee was officially advised yesterday afternoon, by District Attorney Wells, that Caleb P. Marsh had fled the country. There is ample evidence existing that of Mr. Marsh, although his testimony would be particularly valuable. The question has been raised, whether, if Marsh could be run into Canada, he could be brought back. It is the opinion that the extradition treaty does not extend to witnesses, but if Marsh should be indicted for bribe-taking, or be pre-probing or any other offense for which he might be committed to the common jail, they do not question the right and authority of the United States to demand his return. It will be remembered in this connection, that Marsh, in his statement, says that he desired to flee the country, but was overruled in that desire by the Secretary of War himself.

It is due to ex-Secretary Belknap to say that he was not primarily cognizant of the fraud that Marsh had perpetrated upon the Government. The Committee on Judiciary admit this as a matter of fact, but it is his subsequent taking of this illegal gain, with a full knowledge of whence it came, upon which the committee base their articles.

Arms and Robinson.

Some of the Secretary's friends have attempted to show that the whole proceeding against him was instigated by George A. Armes and other officers who were dismissed the service. A few days since, this was entirely outside of anything that would have influenced the Secretary of War. The Military Committe of the House of Representatives, in passing upon his sworn application for reinstatement in the army, he having been dismissed, on complaint of officers on posts where he served, alleged habitual use of sending obscene pictures and pamphlets.

Other Charges Against Belknap.

General Belknap's prosecutors do not propose to stop with the Secretary's connection with post traderships, but will also inquire into the manner in which the money appropriated for the publication and arrangement of the Rebellion Record was expended. They have letter in their possession which, while the first and second class clerks did the bulk of the work and received the pay actually due them for clerical purposes, the main portion of the appropriation went into the pockets of the Secretary and a few favorites.

General Babcock

has withdrawn from the White House. It is not decided whether he will resign his post as superintendent in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds or return to his command. The two sons of the President will officiate.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6, 1876.

Belknap's Plan of Escape.

The plan arranged by General Belknap to effect his escape from the city, but for the timely discovery, would have in all probability been a success. A fast sailing yacht had been secured, and was to cruise in the vicinity of Point Lookout, at the confluence of the Potomac and the Chesapeake bay. The ex-Secretary, in disguise, was to leave his residence unattended by any one, and take a carriage, drawn by fleet horses. By the river road the distance from the Navy Yard to Point Lookout is about sixty miles. Reaching latter point it was proposed to embark. It was then proposed to put out of the bay, under cover of darkness. Once clear of the capes, it was arranged to set sail for Bermuda. The discovery of the plan for the escape of the Secretary and of the measures taken to prevent it, have already been given in these dispatches. The President has given directions to spare no pains to bring the delinquent Secretary to prompt and rigorous punishment. When the Secretary was confronted with his proposed escape, he became greatly agitated and made no attempt to deny it.

Clymer's Dismissal of Marsh.

The Grand Jury in the investigation of the Belknap case will be very much embarrassed, on account of the action of Mr. Clymer, the Chairman of the House committee, in dismissing Marsh. Mr. Bass, the Republican member of the committee, protested against this hasty action. It is stated that it was part of a prearranged plan to get rid of Marsh, so that he could not be used as a witness in a judicial prosecution. The House committee secured enough to carry their point, which was impeachment, knowing that that would be enough to subserve their political ends, and that a trial in the courts under a criminal prosecution, as other delinquents in the Republican party have been dealt with by direction of the President, would neutralize the action of the committee. Mr. Clymer's action, therefore, has deprived the Government of its principal witness, and has frustrated further investigations on the part of the committee.

Civil and Criminal Prosecution of Belknap.

It is said that the Judiciary Committee have decided to ask the House for permission to take more testimony in the Belknap case. It is also expected that the committee will submit a resolution calling for further information from the Attorney General in regard to the whisky cases. All the members of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department and Mr. Knott, Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary, have been summoned to appear before the Grand Jury to-morrow in the Belknap case.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2, 1876.

DISGRACE AND RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY BELKNAP.

The report that Mr. Marsh, of New York, testified yesterday before the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department that he paid Secretary Belknap $10,000 for a post tradership, and $6,000 yearly since, and that the Secretary did not deny the truth of the charge, became generally known this morning, causing much surprise and excitement in official and other circles. Inquiries were made in all quarters to ascertain the precise facts in the premises, which resulted in the general belief that the reported testimony was entitled to credence, and this belief was further strengthened by the fact that about ten this morning Secretary Belknap had an interview with the President, in company with Secretaries Bristow and Chandler, and Postmaster Morton and Morrill, of Vermont, the subject discussed involving the resignation of Secretary Belknap. The latter left the Executive Mansion with Secretary Chandler.

Shortly after ten o'clock, Secretary Belknap handed a letter to the President, tendering his resignation, and asking that it be accepted without delay. It is stated at the White House that the resignation was promptly accepted, but the exact language of the President's reply has not yet been obtained. Belknap has remained at his private residence to-day, not having visited the War Department. He says there are many complications to be explained to the committee, and that he has therefore requested to be allowed to make a statement before it.

The discovery of this circumstance in the Belknap administration of the affairs of War Department, occasions the most intense surprise, and Cabinet officers and officials of all grades declare their absolute astonishment. The developments made to-day-there has been considerable talk regarding the subject of the impeachment of the ex-Secretary for the offense, and opinion has been expressed, even among the Cabinet officers and others, as to whether a trial can be had after the offending official is out of office. The preponderance of opinion, however, also seems to be. The Attorney General said, in conversation upon the matter, that he was not prepared to give an opinion, though it has not been positively asked for, unless after an examination.

Several friends of Belknap called upon him to-day, but he had nothing to say, expressing a desire to be left undisturbed. He desired to make a statement before the committee. There are already rumors as to the appointment of a successor, but nothing definite is known at the White House. It is also rumored this afternoon that the President is inclined to withdraw his acceptance of the resignation to await the investigation of the charges against Belknap.

SECRETARY ROBESON APPOINTED ACTING SECRETARY OF WAR.

The President to-day appointed Secretary Robeson Acting Secretary of War.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, }
WASHINGTON, March 5, 1876. }

Sir—The resignation of the Secretary of War having been tendered and accepted this day, you are hereby designated to perform and perform the duties pertaining to the office of Secretary of War, in addition to those of your own office, until further directed.

Very truly yours,
U. S. GRANT.

To the Secretary of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1876.

The President informed several Republican members of Congress, this afternoon, that the first intimation he had of Belknap's malfeasance was from the lips of Belknap himself. He was called at the President's house (Capitol early in the afternoon that Belknap resigned. The President was much surprised when he heard Marsh was bound to testify, he exclaimed "I wished I had killed myself," to which the President replied, "Why, General, that rumor was soon repeated in modified forms, until it assumed the shape that Belknap had actually killed himself." The President, in the excitement of the moment, believed the rumor to be true, and sent a messenger to obtain information to satisfy them to the contrary. It was a matter of surprise to every body that Belknap should have been so flagrant in dishonorable transactions more closely than even his subordinates, and the sudden collapse of Belknap continues to-night to be the theme of general conversation. The following is given as the

ORIGIN OF THE BELKNAP INVESTIGATION.

While in search of a house for his family, in December, Hon. B. S. Alabama, was referred to Mr. Evans, real estate agent in this city. During their search for a house, Mr. Armes, in conversation, stated to Mr. Lewis that he had formerly belonged to the army, but had resigned because of the conduct of Belknap; that if he had the assistance of a member of Congress he could in sixty days have Belknap's scalp; that he was then in the service of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanors, and that he would furnish the evidence to sustain the charges. Mr. Lewis, being interested, sought the advice of Randall, who advised that the facts be brought before Mr. Clymer, Chairman of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department. Lewis and Armes saw Clymer and the latter gave him a list of witnesses, including Marsh. Afterward Clymer employed Armes as a detective in bad faith, as the Secretary said Armes had proposed that if he was restored to the army, and certain charges against Belknap dropped, he would drop the matter. Lewis said that if Armes was acting only to levy blackmail, of course they could have nothing to do with it, but advised that as Armes had furnished the names of witnesses they be called and examined, which was done.

THE PROCESS OF IMPEACHMENT.

The committee appointed by the Speaker of the House will to-morrow report to the Senate Chamber and communicate to that body the action of the House.

The impeachment committee will also to-morrow draw up articles of impeachment and report them to the House. When adopted by the House, that body will, headed by the Speaker and high officers, proceed to the Senate Chamber and demand the impeachment of Mr. Belknap. Then the Senate will, in parliamentary form, proceed to the trial thereof.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4, 1876.

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST BELKNAP AND MARSH.

The Attorney General has been in consultation with District Attorney Wells in relation to Belknap's case, and the preliminary papers with a view to his punishment, have been prepared. He will be sent to the Grand Jury next week, when it is expected an indictment will promptly follow. Similar proceedings will be instituted against Marsh. The Attorney General had a consultation with the President to-day on the subject.

In the present state of the case it is doubtful if sufficient can be placed before the grand jury sufficient to secure the indictment, unless Belknap's own admissions before the committee are sufficient. The record of the testimony taken by the committee cannot be used against him, but the witnesses will have to be produced. Marsh is gone. The blundering of Clymer & Co. threatens to postpone, or entirely defeat, the prosecutions before the Senate and in the courts. The New Hampshire election was too near at hand to permit of complete investigation. If the impeachment fails, the criminal prosecutions will not, for the same energy and ability which has been displayed in the whisky prosecutions will succeed in discovering and producing the evidence for a complete record. There is expectation that the President will write a letter to accept the resignation of Secretary of the Secretary's resignation, and make an order suspending him from office. This action could not have any legal effect if it preceded the acceptance, unless done effected a separation from the office.

DEMOCRATIC SPEAKERS FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Democratic committee here sent several speakers to New Hampshire today. The list, as reported to-night, includes Tarbox, a spasmodic orator of Massachusetts; Walker, of Virginia, a very handsome man; Robbins, of North Carolina, a brave soldier in the battles of the South; Springer, a very young man from Illinois, and Blackburn, a Kentucky guerrilla. Robbins and Blackburn are both members of the committee that "caught" Belknap, and they are now more anxious to make votes in New Hampshire than to secure evidence to sustain the articles of impeachment. These men, men who fought for the Confederacy in the South, go to join for this campaign the forces of Marcy, the Democratic nominee, who fought with even greater zeal the battles of the Confederacy in the North. Clymer has become too important a man to be permitted to leave Washington, though he let Marsh, also a man of some consequence, go to Canada.

INTERNAL REVENUE AND CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

The Internal revenue receipts to-day were $546,162 49; for the month to date, $1,678,788 39; and for the fiscal year to date, $11,548,176 49.

Customs receipts to-day, $418,012 79; for the month to date, 81,796,801 76; and for teh fiscal year to date, $101,068,481 89.

WEEKLY TREASURY STATEMENT.

The Treasury now holds $356,295,750 in bonds to secure national bank circulation, and $18,721,500 to secure public deposits. The United States bonds deposited for circulation for the week ending to-day, are $79,000. United States bonds held for circulation withdrawn for the week ending to-day, $781,900, making a decrease in the outstanding circulation of over seven hundred thousand dollars. The national bank circulation outstanding is $346,415,456, of which $2,669,199 are gold notes.

Following are the receipts of national bank notes forwarded for redemption for the week ending to-day, as compared with the corresponding week of last year:

	1875.	1876.
New York	$1,000,000	$1,021,000
Boston	256,000	1,380,000
Philadelphia	85,000	175,000
Chicago	82,000	100,000
Cincinnati	52,000	27,000
Miscellaneous	660,000	249,000
Total	$3,062,000	$3,553,000
Receipts to-day, $818,000.		

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 5, 1876.

A COUPLE OF CLAIMANTS ARRESTED.

Upon the order of the Secretary of the Treasury, Capt. Craig and G. W. Bryant, of Missouri, were arrested yesterday on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the Government of $26,000 on the alleged loss of a train while transporting Government freight between Leavenworth and Fort Yuma. He is stated by parties in interest, that this claim had been under investigation for the last ten years and was passed by different departments without a suspicion of fraud, payment being delayed in consequence only of a supposed want of jurisdiction. In December last, however, that question was decided satisfactorily to the Second Comptroller, who passed the claim. It appears that suspicion was first excited as to the justice of the claim by representations of persons who expected a share. A judicial investigation will take place to-morrow morning, was agreed to.

ANOTHER VIEW OF ARMES AND ROBINSON.

With reference to a dispatch, March 5th, associating Captain George A. Armes with Captain George T. Robinson in criminal practices while officers in the United States army, Captain Armes says that, although he only belonged to the same regiment, they were neither friends nor associates. It appears from official documents, that Captain Armes was tried and dismissed from the service on false charges preferred against him by two officers, and sentenced to be dismissed, cashiered and imprisoned in the penitentiary for three years and fined $600 each. The Military Committee of the House, in February, 1874, in their report on a bill authorizing and directing the Secretary of War to give to Captain Armes an honorable discharge, say that there was nothing in the record to justify the sentence which was imposed by the court martial; the charges were preferred through motives of jealousy and revenge, and the proceedings show that there was a determination on the part of those officers who instigated the prosecution to have Armes dismissed at any cost. The bill to which allusion is above made became a law, under which he was honorably discharged, with one year's extra pay.

A letter was sent to the War Department, written by Captain Geo. Robinson, of Baltimore, to Secretary Belknap on the second of April, 1875, while the finding of the court martial was under the reconsideration of dismisal on account of his selling duplicated pay accounts that were pending before the Department. In his letter Robinson says: "I understand his wife owns in New Mexico some stock and has many cows. Now, Belknap, if you desire, transmit all the documents entire to me, and I pledge myself that such action as you may see fit to take." His letter explains that these documents consisted of memoranda he had made of things he had heard Mrs. Evans say before other members of the firm. The findings of the court were approved by the President and Robinson was shortly after cashiered, on the charges referred to.

MARSH IN MONTREAL.

A dispatch from Montreal says Caleb P. Marsh arrived there Saturday morning.

BELKNAP A PRISONER IN HIS OWN HOUSE.

Ex-Secretary Belknap remains in his own house, which he has not left since the time of his resignation, without any purposes a prisoner, the entrances back and front being guarded by policemen. Messrs. Carpenter and Blair, counsel for General Belknap, appeared at the Attorney General's office this morning, and a police officer was sent to the residence of the President of the United States to see if Mr. Blair, the latter said he had seen Blackburn, and he still thought that he could get off. The President replied that he had not seen him. He asked me if I had the letter. I replied to the committee of the House, and that I said I had not. He said "Blackburn says you had better write another of the same purport and send it to the committee, with a statement that you did not come sooner, and I did so. Shortly before two o'clock I came to the House to meet the committee, and Dr. Tomlinson met me in the corridor and requested me to step into the room. He said, 'You are going before the committee, and I want you to give an account of the interview between you and the Secretary of War at the time of the death of Mrs. Belknap.' I replied that I would do so. When I reached the committee room at about two o'clock I was requested by the chairman to be sworn, and I was then asked to certain members of the facts in the case, more briefly and substantially than I have now answered in reply to your chief interrogatories. When I returned to the hotel yesterday afternoon, Blackburn was waiting at by room at the Arlington to see me. He asked me how I got along with the committee. I told him that I had been sworn and commenced to tell him the story from beginning to end, and that at the request of the committee I had written out my statement in writing and appear before the Committee to-day, at 2 P. M., when I was sworn and read my statement as to the fact that all these payments to the Secretary had been made, by virtue of the original agreement with Mrs. Belknap. I said I had stated the facts as they were, according to my recollection, and I told him I would furnish him a copy of the statement I made before the committee. I prepared the statement last night and gave him a copy about half-past 9 o'clock this morning. In substantially a copy of that I submitted as an answer to your chief interrogatories, save the dates and the blanks. Dr. Tomlinson came back to my room at about 10 last evening, and asked me whether I had seen Mr. Blackburn since I made my statement in the afternoon, and what impression it had made upon the gentleman who heard it. He said he did not like to say. He had not seen Mr. Blackburn, but he had heard from him, and he had expressed the opinion that my statement would involve the Secretary in a criminal charge, and appeal to him that I could not be guilty of any offense in consideration of his appointment as post trader at Fort Sill, Indian Territory. The reading was patented in the Commercial, Atlantic, Pacific and Southern Districts of the United States, by members of the House and by a large audience in the galleries. In the more public portions of the narrative, Mr. Clymer was frequently forced by his feelings to pause into his voice recovered its firm and unconsciousness, and himself from his agitation.

The following is the testimony and accompaniments:

Tuesday, February 29, Caleb P. Marsh, of New York, appeared and testified that in the fall of 1870 he and his wife spent some weeks at Long Branch, and on their return to New York Belknap, his wife and Mrs. Bowers came to his house for a visit, and while Mrs. Belknap was in the room, in the presence and hearing of Mrs. Belknap, Mrs. Bowers, with a feeling under obligation to witness and wife, asked witness one day why he did not apply for a post tradership. Witness replied that some of them were very lucrative offices, adding that she would ask the Secretary's wife about it. Witness did not remember, but do remember her saying something like that she would speak to the Secretary of War to award you a post, you must be careful to say nothing to him about pressing you can once offered him $10,000 for a tradership of this kind and he told him that if he could not get the office he would kick him down stairs." Remembering as I do this story, I presume the antecedent attempt was made by Mrs. Belknap and Mrs. Bowers returned to Washington, and a few weeks thereafter Mrs. Belknap sent me word to come over. I did so. She then told me that the post tradership at Fort Sill was about to be given to a valuable post, as she understood, and that she had talked about it to Mrs. Bowers. She urged me to see the Secretary of War to agree to give it to me. As an event, I called upon the Secretary of War and, as I now recollect, made application for this position in behalf of Caleb P. Marsh. The Secretary told me he would appoint me if I could bring proper letters of recommendation, and this I said I could do. After Mrs. Belknap or the Secretary told me that the present trader at Fort Sill, Lot Phillips, was a valuable post, as she understood, and that she had talked about it to Mrs. Bowers. She urged me to see the Secretary of War to agree to give it to me. As an event, I called upon the Secretary of War and, as I now recollect, made application for this position in behalf of Caleb P. Marsh. The Secretary told me he would appoint me if I could bring proper letters of recommendation, and this I said I could do. After Mrs. Belknap or the Secretary told me that the present trader at Fort Sill, Lot Phillips, was about to resign, and that I could have his place if I would give him $1,000 per annum for three years. I replied that I had said something to Mrs. Bowers about the matter, and that I had better see her husband before I decided. I then left the room. I saw Evans and found him alarmed at the prospect of losing the place. I remember that he said that a firm of Western post traders, who were about to go into partnership with the Secretary of War, promised to have him appointed, but he found, on coming to Washington, this firm to be entirely without influence. Evans had a partner in Chicago, named Tomlinson, and I then proposed to Evans that if he would allow him to hold the position and continue the business as before, I would give him $5,000 per year. Evans and myself went on to New York together, where the contract was made and executed, which is herewith submitted. During our trip over, however, Mr. Evans and myself, in the *Herald* and *New Journal* which led him to think that some of the troops were to be removed from the fort, and that he had offered too large a sum, and before the contract was drawn, it was reduced, by agreement, to $3,000 per year, the latter sum payable quarterly in advance. When the first remittance came to me, say probably in November, 1870, I sent one-half thereof to Mrs. Belknap, either, I presume, by certificate of deposit or bank notes, by express. Being in Washington, at the funeral, some weeks later, Mrs. Belknap requested me to call upon her, and the following purport, as far as I can now remember, but must say that just here my memory is exceedingly indistinct, and I do not like to be held responsible for what follows as to the details of the conversation: I went up stairs in the room with Mrs. Bowers, to see the baby. I said to her, "This child will have no money to give to Mrs. Belknap at great while." She said, "Yes, the mother gave the child to me and told me that the money coming from you she was to take and keep for it." I said, "All right," and it seems to me I said that perhaps the latter ought to be informed, as I say it seems so, and yet I can give no reason for saying it. She said, as far as I know, the father knew nothing of any money transactions between the mother and myself. I have a faint recollection of a remark of Mrs. Bowers' that if I sent the money to the father it belonged to her and she would get it any way. I certainly had some conversation with, or subsequently, with her or him, for when the next payment became due and was sent I sent a portion thereof to the Secretary of War, and have continued substantially from that day forward to send from time to do the same. About, I should say, one and a half or two years after the commencement of the payments, I reduced the amount to $6,000 per annum. The reason of this reduction was partly because of the condition of affairs at the fort, as told me by my partner, and partly, so far as I now remember, in consequence of an article in the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* that time reflecting on the injustice done to the soldiers at the fort, caused by the exhorbitant charges made necessary on the part of the trader by reason of the high price of living at the fort. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the above is a true statement of all the facts in the case, and as complete as I can remember at the present moment. Two years ago, the witness, in answer to questions by the committee, testified that the payments to Mrs. Belknap were sent, according to the latter's instructions, sometimes in bank notes by Adams Express Company; on one or more occasions, he thought, by certificates of deposit on the National Bank of North America in New York; and since then made to the Secretary in person, in New York or at his quarters in the first and last were made to the Secretary. The aggregate paid, including first and last payments, was about $12,000. Usually, he remitted the money by express, he would send the Secretary a letter in the company's office. He would say he marked "O. K." or otherwise acknowledge the receipt of the letter. When he paid the money in person no receipt was necessary. Had preserved no receipts or letters. Was not in the habit of corresponding with the Secretary regarding the post transferred at Fort Sill; has forwarded to him requests made by Evans, such as to sell liquors, &c. Don't remember what action was taken on them.

After receiving the subpœna to appear before the comm ittee, witness came to Washington, February 26, and went to the house of Secretary Belknap, and returned next morning. I showed him the telegraphic subpœna and asked him what it meant. He said he supposed it was to state before the committee what I knew about our transactions together. I said I did not like to appear, because I thought my testimony would be damaging to, or would implicate, him or give him trouble. He said he thought not, and advised me to stay and meet the committee. During that evening my conversation was chiefly with his wife, she being a part of the time and understanding the general tenor of our conversation. She suggested that I could make a statement which would satisfy the committee and exculpate the Secretary. She wanted me to go before the committee and represent that she and I had business transactions together for many years, and that all this money I had sent the Secretary was but a deposit of hers sent to time deposited with me, as a kind of banker, and that she had intended me to send it to the Secretary for her. I dined there and spent the evening and staid all night, returning about 9 o'clock. The evening was devoted to discussing this matter, and he left the statement would not hold water before the committee, and even if it would I could not make it. At the same time, I was so wrought up, and had such anxiety, she pressing and pressing me about it, and having slept little since the receipt of the subpœna and sympathizing with their condition, I didn't give them a positive answer that night. I went to bed at twelve o'clock, and I don't suppose I slept a wink. They said they would breakfast about nine o'clock. I came down at eight and met the Secretary alone. I told him I thought I had better testify and get out of the country, for I would not perjure myself for anyone that I could afford to marry in the next ten, but not to perjure myself. He said he did not want me to do that, but we could fix it up some other way. I said, "I think I had better leave the country." He said, "Don't think of any such ruin him if I left. I said, "If I go before the committee I must tell the truth." He said, "Of course, I would not have you tell anything but the truth." I said I would ruin him if I went before the committee, and I left and took the limited express for New York. On my arrival at home I consulted my attorney, asking him if the committee could march me by subpœna if I left the country. I stated the case to him. [Mr. Bartlett.—He asked if I was subpœnaed. I told him I had a telegraphic dispatch calling me to Washington. He said that if a subpœna had been any served, they could give me considerable trouble, but that on a telegraphic message he thought I could not be made out of the country. I asked him how long I would have to stay. He said if the committee had leave to sit during recess, it would not be some time after the next Congress expired. I then went home and found a dispatch from Mrs. Tomlinson, brother-in-law of the Secretary. Its purport was not to leave, that he had good news, that was coming over. I determined not to be governed by it, but was governed by it, and left for Washington by the night train. I arrived here at 6:30 A. M. and went to bed. I said he had seen Blackburn, and he still thought that he could get off. I said I had not seen him. He asked me if I had the letter. I replied to the committee of the House, and that I said I had not. He said "Blackburn says you had better write another of the same purport and send it to the committee, with a statement that you did not come sooner, and I did so. Shortly before two o'clock I came to the House to meet the committee, and Dr. Tomlinson met me in the corridor and requested me to step into the room. He said, 'You are going before the committee, and I want you to give an account of the interview between you and the Secretary of War at the time of the death of Mrs. Belknap.' I replied that I would do so. When I reached the committee room at about two o'clock I was requested by the chairman to be sworn, and I was then asked to certain members of the facts in the case, more briefly and substantially than I have now answered in reply to your chief interrogatories. When I returned to the hotel yesterday afternoon, Blackburn was waiting at by room at the Arlington to see me. He asked me how I got along with the committee. 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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 7, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. Newmyer presented the petition of about 2,000 citizens of Allegheny asking for the passage of a free pipe line bill.

Dr. Wood presented the protest of citizens of the Thirty-fourth ward, Pittsburgh, against a division of the city.

On motion of Mr. Cooper, the vote by which the bill increasing the debt of Pittsburgh, for the water works, was defeated, was reconsidered, and, on motion of Mr. Newmyer, was postponed for the present.

The bill providing for the relief of Levi Simson, a soldier of the war of 1812, was passed.

The bill enabling banks to consolidate was also passed.

The House bill empowering camp meetings to employ police passed, as did also the bill relating to damages and mesne profits.

The bill relating to the entry of satisfaction of judgments which have been fully paid passed.

HOUSE.

Mr. Zern presented petitions of miners of Allegheny county, praying for the passage of the Ventilation bill.

The House of Refuge report was presented by the Chairman, Mr. Plummer. [The report will be found in another column.]

A supplement to an act approved April 29, 1874, entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations, authorizing the formation and regulation of what companies," etc., was up on final passage. An attempt was made to defeat it by Philadelphia members, but the bill passed.

The bill relating to appeals from the decision of township auditors passed. Also, the bill authorizing appeals in cases of summary convictions and judgment in suits for a penalty before a magistrate, or court not of record.

A supplement to the act authorizing and requiring auditors to publish annual statements of receipts and expenditures of road moneys in townships was passed. The following were also passed:

Fixing the compensation of township supervisors.

Providing for the appraisement, collection and payment of damages to private property by the grading of streets and alleys.

Repealing an act encouraging the destruction of hawks, owls and crows in Adams county.

The Intumious Ventilation bill was made the special order of the day for Thursday.

Bills on Third Reading—Mr. Long's Hillside Slope bill. Passed finally.

An act relating to investments held by executors, trustees and other fiduciaries. Passed.

Act to prevent the unlicensed sale of merchandise at auction by other than licensed venders and auctioneers. Postponed for the present.

Act making an appropriation to provide for an historical display at the Centennial Exhibition and to erect a suitable schoolhouse or other building for that purpose. Passed.

Act ceding certain water lots in and adjoining the city of Erie to said city for the improvement thereof. Passed.

Act to defray the expenses of the National Guard in suppressing riots in Luzerne, Northumberland and Schuylkill counties. Passed.

The House non-concurred in the Senate amendments to several bills, and appointed conference committees in regard to the same.

Mr. Mylin read in place an act making an appropriation to the Fruit Growers' Association, to enable them to make a display of fruit in this State at the Centennial Exhibition.

The rest of the session was taken up by the passage of bills on first reading, among which was Mr. Billingsley's Monongahela slack water bill.

Adjourned.

The miners held a meeting to-night in the hall of the House of Representatives, Mr. Meyer, presiding, when the Ventilation bill was discussed on their side of the question by Messrs. Stinner, Bowell and others, and against the passage of the bill by John T. Dravo.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 8, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. Anderson presented a bill to regulate savings banks.

Mr. Smith offered a bill to pay the expenses of the Governor's inauguration. The sum appropriated was left blank.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, had read an article from the Scranton *Free Press* published by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, accusing him and Mr. Wilson, of Susquehanna, of [illegible] and moved the appointment of a committee of investigation. Leading Senators insisted that no vindication was necessary and bore high testimony to the character of the two Senators. The resolution was withdrawn. The following bills were passed:

Repealing the act relative to the fees of the District Attorney of Washington county.

To provide for the current expenses of the Board of Public Charities.

The Senate refused to concur in the House amendments to the county salary bill.

The two following bills, having been made the special order of the session, were on final passage:

Act to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases. Messrs. Braggins and Bennett spoke in favor. The vote on final passage was—yeas 22, nays 21. The bill not receiving the constitutional majority was defeated.

Act for the prevention of cruel and unnecessary experiments upon dumb animals. Defeated—yeas 15, nays 26.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Reighard, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the General Appropriation bill to the House, amended so as to fix the legislative expenses at $375,000. This is on the basis of $1,000 each to the members for a session of one hundred days. This action seems to be an indication that the present session will even not last that long. Mr. Talley, which is undoubtedly the intention of the Democratic leaders, provided the more important bills pending are in condition to admit of it.

Senate bill No. 79 (the County Salary bill) passed finally unanimously.

The following were defeated on second reading:

Regulating procedure for violation of ordinances of cities of the first class.

Enlarging the powers of courts of equity throughout the State in cases of partition.

Act in regard to the boundary monuments on the line between the States of Pennsylvania and New York, with an appropriation for the expenses of the same.

To provide for the submission to the voters of the State a proposition for the removal of the Capitol of the State to the city of Philadelphia.

Supplement to the act to incorporate the city of Carbondale, and to repeal a part of the eighth section of the act approved the sixth day of May, A. D. 1852, fixing the amount to be paid by the city of Carbondale in lieu of county taxes.

Bill No. 105, An act to repeal an act entitled "A supplement to the several acts incorporating the city of Pittsburgh, bounding its boundaries, approved the 2d day of April, A. D. 1872, as to the boroughs of Mt. Washington and Union, passed second reading.

Mr. Talley introduced a bill authorizing committees appointed by the different Women's Christian Associations of the Commonwealth to visit prisons for the purpose of conversing with female prisoners on the subject of moral improvement.

Bills on Second Reading—Act to prevent fraudulent practices upon or by hotel keepers, inn keepers and boarding-house keepers. Passed.

Act to compel the appointment of deputy sheriffs in the Commonwealth and restrict its their traveling fees. The vote by which this bill was defeated, was reconsidered and action on the bill postponed for the present.

Act for the more convenient dispatch of public business in courts of the Commonwealth. Not agreed to.

Act repealing the act relative to fees of the District Attorney of Northampton county. Passed.

Further supplement to the act to provide for the admission of certain classes of the insane into hospitals for the insane in the Commonwealth and their discharge therefrom. Passed.

Act empowering councils of boroughs in the Commonwealth to prescribe by ordinance the manner to be paid over to the borough treasury to Burgesses respectively, in lieu of all fees, fines and costs, the manner in which salaries shall be paid, directing all fines and costs to be paid into the borough treasury. Passed.

Act creating and defining the duties and powers of recorders of cities of the third class [illegible] accepts the provisions of this act. Amended so as to refer to cities of the fourth class. Passed.

Senate bill 79, giving salaries, instead of fees, to county officers of Philadelphia.

Mr. Hahn alleged that there was an error in printing the bill, making the district attorney's salary $15,000 annually, when it should be read $10,000. Referred to a conference committee of the Senate and House.

Mr. Everhart offered a resolution of condolence in regard to the death of J. H. Rawlins, late member from the House from Blair county. Impressive and fitting remarks on his many virtues and memory were made by Messrs. Jackson, Hahn, Parker and Allen, after which Mr. Talley moved that, out of respect to the deceased, the House do now adjourn. Agreed to.

Adjourned.

The House met at seven-thirty, in special session, to consider on second reading the act fixing the compensation of county officers in counties containing less than 150,000 inhabitants, providing for the payment of all fees received by them into the county treasury. After considerable debate and numerous amendments the bill passed second reading.

Adjourned.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 6, 1876.

The two Houses are in session to-night, but will do nothing beyond routine work. To-morrow is third reading day in the House, and if the superabundant oratory of that aggregation of nobodies can be kept down, a few bills may possibly be passed.

The Legislature is now in the third month of its session, and as yet, owing to the obstructiveness of the Democratic House, nothing practical has been done. The General Appropriation bill is still in the hands of the committee which originally reported it, and all the important legislation of the session is untouched. The bill to fix the salaries of county officers in counties of over 150,000 inhabitants, has passed the Senate; but instead of taking it up and amending it to suit its purpose, the House has taken up the House bill on the same subject, instead, which, if it passes the House, will render the passage of either bill doubtful. The Senate, certainly will not take up the House bill, if it is sent over to it, while its own bill is unacted upon in the popular branch. So that, as things now stand, the bill will fail, and all through the pigheadedness of the House. The probabilities are that stupidity, alone, has produced this state of things, but it is not impossible that the Democratic leaders in the House may have taken this course with the deliberate purpose of thus defeating the bill.

The Republican Senate, so far, has passed sixty bills and sent them to the House, and has given a final quietus to fifteen other bills, while the Democratic majority in the lower Senate but thirty-two bills. It has now over three hundred bills upon its table, and all may be taken nine weeks, to act finally on thirty-two bills, it may easily be cliphered out how long it will take it to act on the three hundred. If the ten dollars a day pay was not limited by law to one hundred and fifty days, the Democratic members would probably prolong the session to December first; when, fortunately for the State and its people, their terms expire.

It is, in my judgment, useless to look for any important legislation from this House, as it will dawdle along, doing nothing until April first, and will then address itself to the task of prolonging the session to the middle of May, solely for the pay. Fortunately for the publican party of the State, it can do nearly as much with a Republican Senate to hold it in check, do much harm, except to impose a useless expenditure of $400,000 upon the people, as with a set of extravagance its party will be held positively responsible. If it is criminal and disgraceful (as it certainly is), for the Democratic Missouri Senator to line his purse with $6,000 plucked from army estimates, that shall be refused to the policy of defrauding the State out of $30,000 by needlessly prolonging a session of the Legislature, but the people solve the problem.

Apropos of these of talk, here, as well as at Washington, is the Belknap developments. The Philadelphia and New York sensational journals are obtaining their best and daily[illegible] developments, and to prognosticate other revelations which exist only in the imagination, but there are no signs that they will effect on the New Hampshire election that they become unworthy of notice. Belknap's crime is bad enough, but even if he was only a nominal member of the Republican party, and therefore not to be confidence, it cannot be held responsible for his acts. It will do its best to punish him to the full extent of the law, and the party, and not the Republican, is ever meted out this kind of justice. Thieves who have brought reproach upon it.

But, if the party itself is not responsible to the acts of a man who was a member of it, if the Administration of which he was a part can not also either escape censure, Kidd and his "pet" press (may its shadow continually grow less and less) against the end will be disappointed. The conspiracy failed to drive the President into choosing unknown men for his Cabinet, and the fact is now known to a lawyer now comes in at the close of the present administration, to prove that such-pointed charges can be sustained against any political man of eminence is ever likely to be. Belknap is not a specimen Republican, no question of his honesty, or Republicanism. He was a mere camp follower, and his case is but an illustration of the fact that becoming unknown or obscure men for prominent governmental places.

The session justifies, too, the course of the COMMERCIAL in resisting the third term agitation. It needed no great insight into the future to foresee that it would prove a calamity, if it ever succeeded; but the Republicans of the party which indorsed it, should be unjustifiably can congratulate themselves, now, that events have vindicated the correctness of their judgment, and that Wisdom, after, is justified of her children.

This is the day of the Pardon Board, for the termination of the sentence against the Schuylkill County Commissioners, and the end of defrauding the county; but as the Governor is not at home, and no action has been taken by him other than the appointment of his purpose in the matter; but the hint has been thrown out that he may, on some other time, let out one or two of the thieves against pardoning all whose release from prison is recommended by the board.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 7, 1876.

The Senate was flooded to day with petitions from various parts of the State to limit the compensation of all county officers throughout the Commonwealth who are paid by fees to a salary of $2,000 per annum, the surplus over that amount to go into the county treasuries.

The principle here aimed at, that all county officers should be salaried and that all fees should go into the public funds is, in my judgment, a correct one; and the Constitutional Convention erred in not making it general, when it confined itself to making it imperative only in counties containing over 150,000 inhabitants. But the attempt to limit salaries to so parsimonious a sum as $2,000 is a mistaken one, and a step in the wrong direction. Would not the term of county officers were a continuous one, that sum might be an appropriation to the correct amount; but as they expected that [illegible] will be a special[illegible] session for a temporary place at $5 per a rate of compensation. The consequence of such a system would be to drive competent men from the competition for county offices.

But, no matter how the signers to such petition may flatter themselves to the contrary, there is no prospect of the passage of any bill of the kind. The Constitution makes it the duty of the Legislature to enact a law for the three largest counties of the State, fixing the compensation of county officers by salaries instead of fees; yet although the Constitution is now in its third year, no bill of the kind has yet become a law, and is not likely probably. From present appearances, that none will be passed by this Legislature. If, then, a Constitutional requirement is of no avail, how much less will a bill, or bills, be expected from a multiplicity of petitions, which go into the pigeon holes in the Transcribing Clerk's room, never again to see the light of day.

The House devoted the day to discussing and voting on bills on third reading and this may be said to be the first day's work of the session. From present indications, at its slowness has at last driven its leaders into doing something, there is to be hoped that, now the [illegible] out how to do it, they will [illegible] up the business before the House so as to be able to adjourn about the first week in April.

Yesterday, two of the Democratic leaders in the House, the Governor-elect of the Legislature would go in a body, on May 10th, to participate in the opening ceremonies of the Centennial Exhibition. The plan of these two prominent Democratic leaders, provided the more important bills pending are in condition to admit of it.

Senate bill No. 79 (the County Salary bill) passed finally unanimously.

The following were defeated on second reading:

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Mr. Everhart offered a resolution of condolence in regard to the death of J. H. Rawlins, late member from the House from Blair county. Impressive and fitting remarks on his many virtues and memory were made by Messrs. Jackson, Hahn, Parker and Allen, after which Mr. Talley moved that, out of respect to the deceased, the House do now adjourn. Agreed to.

Adjourned.

The House met at seven-thirty, in special session, to consider on second reading the act fixing the compensation of county officers in counties containing less than 150,000 inhabitants, providing for the payment of all fees received by them into the county treasury. After considerable debate and numerous amendments the bill passed second reading.

Adjourned.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 6, 1876.

The two Houses are in session to-night, but

It is a singular fact that most of the great world's expositions, which were undertaken in the interest of peace, were soon followed by gigantic wars. After the Centennial, what?

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 7, 1876.

The Lancaster Convention.

A storm is brewing to disturb the Democratic State Convention which meets at Lancaster on the 22d instant. Alexander Cummins, Richard J. Haldeman and a few others have been here for some days setting things up. They support the interests of Randall before the Convention. A powerful faction, however, has developed itself in the interest of Senator Wallace. They urge him to step to the front as the champion of a movement hostile to the interests of Randall, so far as the control of the Convention and the naming of delegates at large are concerned. It is declared by both parties that Mr. Clymer is no longer a political element in the affairs of the Democracy of Pennsylvania. In the contest for the Speakership he co-operated with Mr. Randall, but his efforcescences of zeal sometimes did more harm than good for his friend. Should Senator Wallace enter the lists, as desired by his friends, the combustibility of the hostile elements is bound to create a lively time amongst the Democratic managers at Lancaster. The leaders are not yet very positive as to their preferences on the Presidential question, but await developments.

Retirement of Judge McCandless.

Senator Wallace has received a letter from Judge McCandless, stating in unequivocal terms that he will take the bene fit of the act of retirement now pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and that he wishes to retire with a clear docket, which he can do by the first of May. The committee have not yet taken Judge McCandless' letter into consideration. All that was demanded by the committee to insure a favorable report, was a satisfactory assurance that he would retire. They desired a letter addressed to them as a committee. It is probable, however, that the present letter to Senator Wallace will answer.

The Discussion in the House.

on the course to be pursued by the Clymer Committee in giving evidence to the Grand Jury, was soon turned by the Democrats into a political row, in which the Democrats were most sadly worsted. The Republican sallies were loudly applauded. Blaine poured repeated volleys into Clymer, which galled him fearfully, until finally, in anger, he began gyrating his fists at the Republican side, to their infinite amusement.

Clymer a Laughing Stock.

Prominent Democrats admitted to-night that Clymer had the wind entirely knocked out of him. He is a laughing-stock generally, and by his own party is held responsible for the possible failure to make a case against Belknap. The Republicans will also be responsible should the Grand Jury fail to bring in an indictment.

Robeson Wants to be Investigated.

Secretary Robeson said to-day that hith erto he had remained quiet in relation to the semi-political attacks made upon him in the statements which had been made against his integrity, but since the exposures relating to General Belknap, he was desirous that every allegation against him should be fully investigated.

Site for the P. O. is Postoffice.

The change of the site of the Postoffice at Erie, though still a matter of controversy, will from satisfactory indications be made to the premises offered by Mr. Reed. The accommodations afforded by the old site are insufficient. The rent of the present establishment will expire with April, but an offer has been made to make up the rent for that time, so as to bring about the change at once. The friends of the old site are making great exertions to have it retained.

Rev. John R. Hamilton, of Erie County.

The House Committee on Military Affairs have reported adversely on the case of John R. Hamilton, of Erie county.

From the records of the War Department, it appears that John R. Hamilton, minister, was enrolled in Fairview, Erie county, Pa., on the 20th day of August, 1862, and was exempted upon the payment of three hundred dollars commutation money, which was also to be returned by the passage of the bill. All claims of this kind were open to presentation under the act of February 28, 1867, extended by the act of March 3, 1871. No claim appears to have been made for the return of this money under these acts, and the War Department have no information that Mr. Hamilton has any ground upon which he should claim exemption from the commutation money paid to procure his exemption. The fact of the claim being outside of the course usually followed in such cases referred to, is adverse to its favorable consideration, and no evidence in its favor has been submitted to the committee

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 8, 1876.

Question of Silver Payment.

The Secrecary of the Treasury will not for fractional currency, valuation of silver directed so to do by the President or by a resolution of Congress. The silver now ules idle in the vaults of the sub-treasuries and United States depositories, at the money centers. In connection with a friend, he stated that he did not wish to assume the responsibility, though he felt assured that the step would be successful. He mentioned the fact that the Secrecary of the Treasury, General Spinner, from his personal knowledge upon the subject, and therefore a letter was dispatched by the Attorney General to District Attorney Hazleton, and is the case of the officials received by the Department, with a note that the same was sent to the District Attorneys at Chicago and St. Louis. In this letter the Attorney General is of the certainly in the highest good judgment to refrain from every thing that could by any possibility be construed as favoritism toward those who had defrauded the Government, and he remarked, "It is the President's reiterated desire that no guilty man should escape. A few days later the President, being still in communication with the Department for the Attorney General to learn whether he had taken any action. As the letter of instruction, which he said, among other things, that unless important ends are to be gained in other cases, he would make no terms with any individual party. The Attorney General says the policy indicated in this order was not communicated by him in any circular letter to the District Attorneys in those cities, but it was carried out alike in St. Louis, Chicago and Milwaukee. Nothing occured to lead the Attorney General, or the Secretary of the Treasury, to suppose that in the whole the Attorney General knew or believed, to change this policy in any degree; but in the middle of July and subsequent thereto, various newspaper slips, partisan speeches and private memoranda came to the President and, in a lesser degree, to the Attorney General, that bargains were being made, or were about to be made, by individuals whose testimony was not in the slightest degree needed, by which a large number of criminals were to be let off from any kind of punishment, to be released from prosecution in a manner likely to bring scandal upon the administration of justice, and quitest variance with the policy expressed by the President and approved by the Attorney General; and these statements were in a large measure affirmed to the President and subsequently to the Attorney General by individuals and most trusted supervisors in the service, and who claimed to speak from personal knowledge upon the subject, and especially in relation to transactions in Chicago. They stated to the Attorney General that bargains of very questionable propriety were being made in Milwaukee District Attorney and without any communication with the Attorney General, from whom they receive their appointment and for whose judicious conduct the Attorney General was responsible. The President was greatly disturbed by these varied and repeated representations of a cause so a variance with the policy before indicated and he directed the Attorney General of the Attorney General, and finally suggested that, in view of the repeated statements, it would be well for the Attorney General to let the Chicago prosecutions go by default, and to give such instruction upon this subject, and therefore a letter was dispatched by the Attorney General to District Attorney Hazleton, and is the case of the official received by the Department, with a note that the same was sent to the District Attorneys at Chicago and St. Louis. 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FOREIGN NEWS.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Italy.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT—SPEECH OF THE KING.

ROME, March 8.—King Victor Emanuel opened the sessions of Parliament to-day. In his speech treated of the prosperous condition of the country, the perfectly friendly relations with foreign States and the recent visits of the Emperors of Germany and Austria. He expresses pride at the progress and efficiency of the army and navy. In connection with the Russian insurrection, he says: "I have deemed it expedient to participate in negotiations between the great Powers, with the object of aiding in the re-establishment of tranquility in that east and assuring the welfare of a Christian population. The Sultan received the proposals favorably." The remainder of the speech treats of domestic matters entirely.

Iceland.

FAMINE IN THE WESTMANNA ISLANDS.

COPENHAGEN, March 7.—The last mail from Iceland reports that 300 inhabitants of the Westmanna Islands, a group lying to the south of Iceland and belonging to Denmark, are probably dying of starvation. The fisheries the last year were unsuccessful, and the inhabitants, fearing their food would not last them throughout the winter, sent to Iceland asking for supplies. Accordingly, a small quantity of provisions was dispatched. A month ago, however, a bottle was found on the coast of Iceland containing a letter stating that the supplies on hand were only adequate for one week, and that famine was inevitable. The dangerous seas during the winter months render communication with the Wesmanna Islands almost impossible.

European Turkey.

REVOLUTION IN SERVIA—REPUBLIC PROCLAIMED.

VIENNA, March 7.—The *Temps* publishes dispatch, dated to-day, stating that a republic has been proclaimed in Servia, Benovitch dynasty deposed and Prince Milan escorted to the frontier.

England.

THE QUEEN OPENS A HOSPITAL.

LONDON, March 7.—Queen Victoria and Princess Beatrice to-day traversed London by way of the Thames embankment. Queen Victoria street, Cornhill, Leadenhall street and Whitechapel, to open the new wing of the London Hospital in Whitechapel road. A large body of troops lined the entire route, and immense and enthusiastic crowds of people lined the streets through which the royal party passed. A triumphal arch was erected and the buildings were brilliantly and profusely decorated. Business at the Stock Exchange and Royal Exchange, early on the line of the route, was neglected for the time. Flags are displayed to-day the Queen is unprecedented.

THE "TIMES" ON SCHENCK'S SUCCESSOR.

LONDON, March 8.—The *Times* says President Grant has returned to a custom so honorable to the United States as it is presumable no other country possesses, nominating S. H. Dana to succeed Mr. Schenck. An American Minister could bring no better credentials than the reputation of Mr. Dana.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, March 7, 1876.

HOME FOR AGED POOR BURNED—EIGHTEEN INMATES BURNED TO DEATH.

The home for aged people, conducted by the Catholic community, known as "Little Sisters of the Poor," and located in the Eastern District of Brooklyn, was completely burned this morning. The house comprised a four-story building, with two wings, and contained about 200 inmates. These were made aware of the fire, a panic seized them, and, the Sisters losing control, they ran through the building, some escaping to the street, but others, sinking down exhausted, were overcome by fright and smoke. The police and firemen rescued all they could, but a number of old men and women, in the lower flloors, were the victims of the smoke and flames, ran for the roof. All who reached here were rescued, but some inmates, too feeble to run or clamber, were burned to death, while the two who threw themselves from the upper windows were fatally injured. Five bodies have been taken from the ruins. The loss on the building and furniture is $25,000; insurance $30,000.

Later report from the fire in the home for the indigent under the care of the Little Sisters of the Poor, makes it more disastrous in its results than at first noted. It seems the fire was first discovered in the south wing, occupied by the male portion of the inmates, and contained seventy-two persons, whose ages varied from sixty-eight to one hundred and five years. The fire was discovered by a person on the street, who gave the alarm by ringing the bell of the institution, awakening the Sisters and the aged inmates. When the firemen arrived the flames were sweeping the entire south wing in every direction, and it was not until about nine o'clock, when the fire had been reduced and smouldering embers on the basement, that the firemen were enabled, by ladders, to examine the upper stories of the burned wing, when they found seventeen men burned in their beds on the upper stories. The bedsteads were made of iron, and rested in the charred beams which had remained in their places. The bodies were burned to a crisp, rendering them totally unrecognizable. It is said that thirty are missing, and it is feared that the burned bodies of some may be found among the debris of the fire in the basement. The firemen succeeded in saving the main building and the north wing, which is occupied by about sixty old women.

In one of the rooms on the third story, second tier, a horrible sight presented itself to the gaze of the fireman who first was able to make his way through the smoke and flame into it. There, stretched on their pallets, the mattresses, quilts and even pillows of which had been singed by the fire, partially covered with the water that subdued the flames around them, were the corpses of nine unfortunate creatures, some of whom were paralytics and all of whom had been unable to leave their beds. A few of them were burned and the hair upon their heads singed, but all doubtless died from suffocation caused by the smoke. On the second floor, likewise, one old man was found dead seated in a chair. He also died of asphyxia, and had been so infirm that he was unable to leave his seat.

After the firemen saw that the flames were confined, a trifling duty awaited them. In the ruins it was certain there were bodies of many who had perished in the most terrible manner, but what number or who they were, was impossible to determine, for the men, as fast as they could escape, were either housed in residences of the neighborhood, or were wandering about in a half-crazed mind, in some instances, in a half-clad condition. The firemen, however, continued the work of pouring water on the embers, and as these cooled they began the search for those who were buried. Their labors brought from beneath the debris the charred and mangled bodies of eight men, whose remains fell from the wood in which they perished. This made in all eighteen victims of the holocaust, including those who died from suffocation. Those burned were of course unrecognizable, and their blackened remains presented a sickening sight as the firemen dragged them out and gave them in charge of the Sisters of the Order and brethren from St. Johns College. These, in turn, conveyed the remains to the basement of the institution, and there wrapped them up in shirts and sheets to await the arrival of the Coroner. Most of the missing have been accounted for, and the above, it is believed, comprises the total list of those burned.

THE BROOKLYN FIRE—BURIAL OF THE VICTIMS.

Sixteen hearses were driven this forenoon to the home for the Aged of the Little Sisters of the Poor, in Brooklyn, where the terrible calamity by fire took place yesterday, and into them were placed coffins containing the eighteen bodies gathered from the ruins. The spectacle was a sad and sickening one. While the coffins were being borne to the hearses, blood from the half-roasted bodies oozed through the seams thereof, besmearing the sidewalks. Only three of the bodies were identified; the others were so charred that it was impossible to tell one from the other, and in one instance two bodies were coffined together. The remains were interred in the Holy Cross Cemetery.

THE Huge, Drastic, Griping Sickening Pills,

constructed of crude, coarse and bulky ingredients, are fast being superseded by Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets, or Sugar-Coated, Concentrated Root and Herb Extract, Anti-Bilious Granules—the "Little Giant" Cathartic or *Multum in Parvo* Physic. Modern Chemical Science enables Dr. Pierce to extract from the juices of the most valuable roots and herbs their active medicinal principles, which, when worked into little Pellets or Granules, *scarcely larger than mustard seed*, renders each little Pellet as active and powerful as a large pill, while they are much more palatable and pleasant in effect.

DR. IRA A. THAYER, of Baconsburg, Ohio, writes: "I regard your Pellets as the best remedy for the conditions for which you prescribe them of anything I have ever used, so mild and certain in effect, and leaving the bowels in an excellent condition. It seems to me they must take the place of all other cathartic pills and medicines."

LYON & MACOMBER, druggists, Vermillion, D. T., say: "We think they are going to sell like hot cakes as soon as people get acquainted with them, and will spoil the pill trade, as those that have used them like them much better than large pills."

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THE REFORM SCHOOL

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Charges of Cruel Punishments Sustained.

Violations of Sanitary Laws Severely Reprehended.

Change of Management Demanded.

Financial Operations Not Definitely Passed Upon.

WHAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND

W. C. PLUMMER,
J. K. THORNTON,
S. H. FINDLEY,
J. K. BILLINGSLEY,
J. B. YERKES.

THE NEW CATHOLIC DIOCESES.

Consecration of the New Bishop of Pittsburgh and Installation of the Bishop of Allegheny—Letter from Rt. Rev. M. Domenec.

Rev. J. Hickey, late Administrator and Vicar General of the Diocese, has issued an invitation to the reverend clergy of Pittsburgh and Allegheny cordially inviting them to assist, on Sunday, the 19th inst., at the consecration of the Rt. Rev. J. Tuigg, D. D., in St. Paul's Cathedral, and at the installation of the Rt. Rev. M. Domenec, D. D., in St. Peter's Church, Allegheny City.

The letter of Rt. Rev. M. Domenec, now Bishop of Allegheny, addressed to the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and to be read in all the churches on Sunday next, has also been promulgated.

THE REASONS FOR THE DIVISION.

With reference to the reasons for the division of the diocese the Bishop says: Among the many reasons, the principal one was because the good of our holy religion demanded it on account of the rapid growth of the Catholic Church in the diocese of Pittsburgh. Some few facts, which we will here relate, will show this truth. In 1800, when we were consecrated Bishop of Pittsburgh, there were but three and Catholics in the whole diocese; now there are more than two hundred thousand. The same must be said in regard to the number of priests, churches and chapels. In Allegheny county alone, during the period of my Episcopacy, more than twenty-six churches have been built, and many others have been made to others; eight new religious female communities have been introduced into the diocese, and twenty new priests have been erected. The number of charitable and educational institutions have largely increased, and it must be taken into consideration that all this growth was in less than ten years, and therefore the increase of work heaped upon us as the head of the diocese has been very considerable. Neither have we not spared ourselves, but have worked in season and out of season, by day and by night, as much as our strength would allow; we cannot meet the duties so heavily heaping upon us. We fear that we have been obliged to do something, and this thought has made us uneasy lest perhaps we had neglected some of our duties. Our conscience bears witness to, to prove us. In the midst of these conscientious doubts, we saw before our eyes the example of our illustrious predecessor, the Most Rev. Bishop O'Connor, who after ten years of his administration found it necessary, followed by the erection of the Diocese of Erie. We saw likewise, the example of many other prelates dividing their dioceses, for within the period of our elevation to the See of Pittsburgh, more than fifteen new dioceses have been erected by the division of old ones. All these examples pressed upon us to divide our diocese.

For that purpose on the 4th of November, of last year, we sailed for Rome to present the whole matter to Holy Father. We there gave our report, and made a perfect statement of the affairs of our diocese, that the Holy See immediately decided that the diocese should be divided. We left entirely to us what line the division should be made. The Holy See, after a careful examination of the geographical position of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, of its resources, of its churches and institutions, the number of the priests and of the laity, and of the actual limits of the new diocese. The division of the Pittsburgh and Allegheny dioceses is the most fair and just. Both will have nearly the same number of priests and almost an equal number of Catholics. The only difference will be that the dioceses institutions will be what they ought to be in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

THE TRANSFER.

Another thought has crossed to the minds of some, that is, why we did not remain in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and for what reason we were transferred to the Diocese of Allegheny? To this we say that we asked from the Holy See to be transferred to the new diocese, and gave our reason for it, and since the Holy See granted our petition, every Catholic ought to think that our reasons were good and just. Our only reason, however, will remark, that in asking to be transferred to the Diocese of Allegh y, we had in view the good of religion, and we intended that the division of the diocese was a matter of necessity, we even compelled to make the sacrifice. Had we remained as Bishop of Pittsburgh, we would have felt keenly the separation of those Catholics who form the new diocese, for they are equally our beloved children. Now as Bishop of Allegheny, we feel the separation of those among the flock of Pittsburgh, with whom we have lived, and for whom we have worked for more than fifteen years.

THE NEW BISHOP.

The Diocese of Allegheny will be blessed with a zealous and laborious prelate, the Right Rev. J. Tuigg, who for the period of nearly twenty-five years in the exercise of the holy ministry, shows that he is the right man in the right place. His unremitting zeal in the sacred career fore-shadow the progress of the Pittsburgh Diocese under his wise and energetic administration. We feel confident that the flock, filled with old and young, will be with our Bishop when he will begin to exercise his pastoral office. They rattle on the table and alarm the guard.

Power of Pure Love.

(From the Petersburg Index.)

A very distinguished lawyer of Richmond who has passed the meridian of life and has won renown as an orator and a jurist, was addressing a court recently, and was in the midst of a brilliant argument when he saw his wife—the idol of his heart—enter the room. He at once became confused and concluded with some abruptness. It was the first time his wife had heard him speak. Fearful that he would not make a favorable impression upon her, he who had triumphantly faced judges, juries, legislative assemblages, mass meetings, political conventions and the best of the *literati*, succumbed, and before one who in her love for him would have seen only the gems of his speech, and whose criticism would have been fullest praise.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 8, 1876.

The money market was again quiet and easy to-day, and the situation previously noted in our financial circles was unchanged. Rates of discount for prime commercial paper were easy and the banks were, as a general rule, willing to take all of such paper as was offered. Pittsburgh banks are now the customers in this market, they being applicants for paper that will find some work for their idle currency. In this they are not successful, and are consequently studying how to invest their funds until next fall. The reader can thus understand how abundant money is here, and yet, if applicants for discounts cannot show paper reasonably safe, and made up by actual transfers of mercantile property, they have to go without supply. The conditions of national prosperity are not so thoroughly assured as to impart buoyant confidence, and, therefore, bankers are strictly conservative in their choice of paper. In private loans, there has been but little done. Private capital is abundant here, but it cannot get into circulation without impregnable security to draw it from its seclusion. Doubtless, the coming political campaign foreshadowing the next Presidential election, have some influence in dictating prudence by financiers, who remember that general business is more or less distracted in view of coming changes in the administration of national affairs. Whatever the causes, it is sufficient to say that there is more money than business, and dullness prevails. In local stocks and securities there was no movement of a remarkable character. We note sales of Allegheny Valley Railroad, 7-30's, at 100, an advance of ½; Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Registered sevens at 83¼, an advance of ½; Allegheny Valley Railroad income sevens at 56½@57¼, a decline of ½@¾; Pennsylvania Railroad shares at 57; and Oil Creek at 14¾@14¾. The Philadelphia money market is reported as follows by the *North American*:

"There was more demand for money, both on business and speculative account, and the rates were rather firmer. We quote call loans at 4@5 per cent.; gilt-edged commercial paper at 6@6½ per cent.; good single name paper at 6½@7 per cent.; loans on Government collateral at 4@5 per cent., and loans on first class bonds and stocks at 6@7 per cent. per annum. There was more disposition to operate in stocks, and prices generally were higher."

—The report of Superintendent Ellis for the year ending December 31, 1875, discloses the fact, according to the New York *Tribune's* Albany correspondence, that savings banks of New York city received deposits during the year 1875 to the amount of $131,188,216, an increase of $4,177,515 over the deposits of the preceding year, notwithstanding the failure of five banks with $3,500,000 deposits. The aggregate resources show an increase of more than $10,000,000, and the surplus an increase of more than $5,500,000. On the other hand, the number of open accounts has decreased 25,000, nearly 19,000 of which belong to the five banks which failed before the 1st of January. During the year 1875 the savings banks of New York and Brooklyn combined held $232,880,130 of deposits, $259,293,822 of resources, $26,070,162 in surplus, and had 666,784 open accounts.

A brief retrospect of the New York city banks for the last ten years shows an increase in the number of banks from twenty-five to forty at the present date, in the average deposit from $86 to $394 70, in the resources from $93,418,947 to $265,415,447, in the deposits from $86,574,343 to $184,188,216, in the surplus from $6,844,592 to $20,087,722, and in the number of open accounts from 307,592 to 468,652. The bank of Kings county show in the same period an increase in number from seven to seventeen, in the total resources from $18,417,617 to $53,878,378, in the amount of deposits from $17,164,474 to $48,391,964, in the surplus from $1,250,400 to $5,382,440, in the number of open accounts from 69,413 to 138,132, and in the amount of the average deposit from January, 1871, to January, 1876, from $318 62 to $350 25. Within the same period the total amount of the resources of all the banks in the State has increased from $141,634,515 to $328,255,735 in 1874, the returns for 1875 from the entire State not being yet made up; the deposits have increased from $131,769,074 to $303,935,640, the surplus from $9,865,441 to $24,310,086, the open accounts from 488,501 to 3,72,498, and the average account, from $269 to 1876, increased from $288 31 to $318 35.

—Attention has been directed to the movement in England to take from the banks all power to issue paper money and to transfer it to the Government. We noticed this when it first started under the auspices of Chancellor Lowe, during Mr. Gladstone's administration. The debate occurred in Parliament March, 1865, and Lowe based his ideas upon those of Sir Robert Peel, that the State was entitled ultimately to resume into its own hands the entire business of issue; that this course should be taken upon the first favorable opportunity, and that the issue is the privilege and prerogative of the State. This principal is an old and well established one, but it has encountered the most intense hostility of the English school of banking and finance, which has been extended to Continental Europe and America. Hence, although our greenback issue was really nothing new it has been treated with ridicule as utterly baseless. Mr. Lowe's declaration was indorsed by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Goshen. The Cincinnati *Enquirer*, a Democratic journal, revives this debate as the justification of the Democratic proposition to abolish the national bank notes and substitute greenbacks instead. Yet, although it may be true, as the *Enquirer* says, that the ablest men in England are almost unanimously of opinion that the power of issue should be taken from the banks and transferred to the government, it has not been done nor is there any likelihood of its being done. The recognized danger of paper money is the very one taken up as the special banning of the Democratic party—unlimited issues. Sir Robert Peel's idea was but a crude one which he made no attempt to put into shape. We have done so and met the unavoidable difficulties referred to, and which we are applying ourselves to overcome.

—We are in receipt of a tabulated statement from the Insurance Commissioner of a summary of the condition of the fire and marine insurance companies of the State of Pennsylvania in January 1876. From that statement we learn that the total capital of these companies is $9,681,013, while the gross assets are $29,222,190. Their income from premiums during 1875 was $11,722,753, while the total expenditures were $9,982,415, of which $5,898,332 were for losses paid and $1,141,617 for dividends to stockholders. The summary does not give the expense account, but the figures show that it reached the large sum of $2,842,506. The total liabilities of the companies, including re-insurance and capital, are $22,590,647, while their surplus over all liabilities exclusive of capital is $16,312,554. The risks written during 1875 aggregated $884,523,456, and the total risks January 1, 1876, were $916,712,122.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	114⅛	114⅛	114⅛	114⅛	114⅛
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	122¾	122¾	....	....	....
5-20's, 1865, coupons	....	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1865, new	119	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1867, registered	121	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1867, coupons	121⅞	....	....	....	....
5-20's, 1868	120	....	....	....	....
10-40's	118¾	....	....	....	....
6-40's, coupons	118¾	....	....	....	....
Currency 6's	126⅜	....	....	....	....
6's 5 per cents	118¾	....	....	....	....
Western Union Tel.	68⅝	68⅝	68⅝	68⅝	68⅝
Quicksilver	....	17⅞	....	....	....
Pacific Mail	21¾	21¾	22¼	22¼	22¼
Panama	....	107	....	....	....
Adams Express	....	107	....	....	....
Wells-Fargo Express	....	67⅜	67	....	....
American Express	....	61¾	62¼	....	....
United States Exp'r's	....	72¾	74½	....	....
New York Central	....	115⅛	....	....	....
Erie	....	17⅞	18	17⅞	17⅞
Michigan Central	63¼	64	64¼	64⅛	64⅛
Michigan Southern	....	64	64¼	64⅛	64⅛
Illinois Central	....	112½	....	....	....
Cleveland & Pittsb'gh	....	....	....	....	....
Chicago & Northwest	....	42¾	....	42¾	43
Do. preferred	....	....	65	....	64¾
Rock Island	....	110½	110¾	....	110½
St. Paul common	....	79¼	....	79¼	80¼
Do. preferred	....	79¼	....	....	80¾
Wabash common	....	3⅞	3⅞	....	3
Fort Wayne	....	....	93	....	91½
Ohio & Mississippi	....	....	21¾	....	21½
Union Pacific	....	66¾	....	67¾	68⅜
Wabash	....	14½	....	....	14¾
Hannibal & St. Joe	....	18	18	....	18¾
Atlantic & Pacific pref	....	....	....	....	43¾
Iron Mountain	....	27	26	....	26
C. & I. C.	....	....	....	....	44

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
THURSDAY, March 8, 1876. }

The impetus given to trade by the increased activity of yesterday and Monday, was somewhat slackened to-day. There was a fair business in some departments, and in one or two staples the feeling was somewhat improved, but in the main quiet. We quote in general rule, the progress and development of the spring trade was checked by the radical alteration since yesterday. The grain and produce trades were rather quiet and sluggish, especially the former. In the latter, there was rather more active and stronger, while eggs are easy and lower under the influence of heavy offerings. Hay continued dull and depressed at the very low prices previously quoted. Flour is coming in freely, and the trade is very active at steady prices for favorite brands, while low grades continue depressed. Provisions continue very firm, in sympathy with strong Western advices, and accompanied by active demand. There is no advance in quotations, but the tendency is strongly upward. In groceries, sugars were firm with a strong upward tendency again, and dealers are very firm at former prices, while coffees are steady with stronger advice from the East. The petroleum market was again dull and a shade lower on crude. In dry goods the jobbing movement was somewhat checked to-day but was very active during the first two days of the week. In hardware, glass, boots and shoes, hides and leather, &c., there was a steady feeling and trade presented no new features.

The Baltimore *American* of the 4th says: There have been quite a number of sales and an active revival in the sugar business of this city. The Merchants' Sugar Refinery and Chapman's shut down of the four formerly operated by Stirling, Ahrens & Co., has been leased by Mr. Chapman, and will be operated as a branch of the Canton Sugar Refinery. The Mercantile Sugar Refinery, Chesapeake, Ohio and Southwestern, Thomas & Co.'s, Hollins & Co.'s, Alton, The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.			
W. U. Telegraph	68⅝	Toledo & Wabash	3
Pacific Mail	22	Do. preferred	10
Adams Express	109	Ft. Wayne	103½
Wells-Fargo Ex	67	Terre Haute	5
American Ex	62½	Do. preferred	21½
U. S. Express	74½	Chicago & Alton	102¾
New York Central	116	Do. preferred	109
Erie	18	Chicago & R. I.	110½
Do. preferred	35	Indiana Central	4½
Harlem	143	Illinois Central	112½
Do. preferred	136	Hannibal & St. Joe	18½
Mich. Central	62⅝	Delaware & Lack.	117⅜
Lake Shore	64⅝	Del. & Hudson	93¾
Illinois Central	101	Union Pacific stock	68¼
Cleve. & Pitts	93½	Central Pac. bonds	108⅝
Northwestern	43¾	Union Pac. bonds	103⅜
Do. preferred	64¾	Do. land grants	103½
Panama	115	Do. sinking fund	93¾
Rock Island	110½	Do. preferred	75
St. Paul	43¼	Panama	115
Do. preferred	79¾	Quicksilver	12

GOVERNMENTS.			
U. S. coupons, 1881	123	New 5's	112½
5-20's, 1865	119	10-40's, registered	118¾
5-20's, 1865, new	119¾	10-40's, coupons	119
5-20's, 1867	121¾	Currency 6's	126⅜
5-20's, 1868	122		

STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee, old	43½	Virginia, new	32½
Tennessee, new	34½	Missouri 6's	103½
Virginia, 6's	34		

LONDON, March 8, 5 P. M.—Amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance yesterday, £53,000. Bullion for sale for France unt 9 1-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 106; do. 1867, 107¼; do. 1868, 107¼. Railroad securities—New York Central 104; Erie 15⅝; preferred 39.

PARIS, March 8.—Rentes 66 francs 75 centimes.

FRANKFORT, March 8.—United States bonds—New 93⅜.

NEW ORLEANS, March 8.—Gold 114¾. Sight ½ premium. Sterling—Bank 55⅝@56¼.

[By Associated Press.]
Gold Closed at 114¾.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, March 8.—Money 2@3½ per cent. Clearings $28,000,000. Prime mercantile paper 4½@5½ per cent. Customs receipts $398,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $99,000. Sterling firm at 483¼@485.

GOLD.

Gold strong, opening at 114¾ and closing at 114⅝. Carrying rates 2@3¼ per cent.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds firm. Railroad bonds in good demand and prices all sustained. Hannibal and St. Joseph convertible rose one per cent., selling at 77. State securities dull. Stock market strong and higher in early dealings, advance ranging from ¼ to 2⅜ per cent. Pacific Mail rose from 21 to 23⅜. Western Union from 68⅝ to 69¼. Lake Shore from 64⅝ to 65¾; Michigan Central from 63¾ to 63⅝; New York Central from 115⅞ to 116, and St. Paul common from 43 to 43⅝. Towards one o'clock there was a weaker feeling set in and prices reacted ½ to 1⅜ per cent. Pacific Mail declined to 22; Western Union to 68¾ and Lake Shore to 64, but the decline was partially recovered after second call. The advance in Pacific Mail was caused by the settlement or negotiations for same with Panama. The advance in Western Union was due to rumors that a dividend of 1½ per cent. declared, and the decline which followed was the result of an announcement that the Directors had passed the dividend. Towards the close prices were lower, when there was a decline of ¼ to 1⅝ per cent. from the highest point of the day; Western Union fell off from 69¼ to 68¾ and closed at 68⅝; Pacific Mail from 22⅜ to 22, fell off to 21⅞ and closed at 22¼. Lake shore declined from 64¾ to 64⅛; Michigan Central from 64¼ to 64; Erie fell off to 17⅝; Michigan Central to 62¾ and Canton to 43. Union Pacific rose to 68¾; St. Paul preferred to 80¾, and Quicksilver and Pacific Telegraph to 19. Wabash closed at 3, a decline of 1 per cent. for the day. Transactions were 145,000 shares, of which 41,000 were Erie, 55,000 Western Union, 4,000 Erie, 31,000 Lake Shore and 10,000 Pacific Mail. It is the statement that the Rock Island Company agreed to give monthly reports to the Stock Exchange is misleading. Money Market well supplied.

DRIED FRUITS—There is a dull and slow market. We quote common to choice apples at 3@6½; sliced, 10@11c. Peaches—Halves 12@13c; peeled 19@21c. Blackberries 11c. Huckleberries 15@20c. Raspberries 30@36c. Cherries, pitted, 25@27c; unpitted 8@9c per lb.

EGGS—The market was again weak under the depressing influence of the large receipts noted by the advance of last week. Receipts continue liberal and prices were somewhat lower, the transactions to-day being at 16c per dozen.

HOPS—The market continues to show some firmness, but is in the main quiet. We quote prime 1874's at 18@20c ₱ lb; mediums 15@17c; low grades nominal.

HONEY—The supply exceeds the demand. We quote at $1 00@1 25 ₱ barrel in a jobbing way; $5 25@6 00 in round lots.

HONEY—New domestic honey is steady at 22 @23c ₱ lb. California is quoted at 33c ₱ lb.

NUTS—Peanuts are in fair request at easy prices: prime white Tennessee nuts rule at 6@7c, according to quality; Virginia, 5½@6½c. Shellbarks are easy at $1 25@1 50 ₱ bu; walnuts depressed at 30@40c ₱ bushel; hazelnuts at 15@16c; almonds are in limited demand and in light stock at 10¼@11c.

ONIONS—There is a somewhat improved demand and prices are steady with an upward tendency. We quote at $1 25@1 85 ₱ barrel.

POULTRY—At the market to-day dressed chickens at 13@14c ₱ lb; turkeys 15@16c; geese nominally 8@10c; live chickens by the coop 6@6½c ₱ pair.

POTATOES—Receipts for the past week were large, this season of the year, being 5,000 bushels. While the stock is in first hands here is not large, much less than at this time last season, but receipts continue very much depressed and former prices are barely maintained. We hear of sales from first hands at 30@35c ₱ bushel; store sales are made at the usual advance. Receipts for the week were 7,141 bushels.

SEEDS—The market is rather slow and buyers are disposed to hold back. We quote clover seed at 6½@6¾c ₱ lb; $6 25@6 50 ₱ bushel in round lots; $6 25 in a jobbing way; timothy seed is quoted at $2 75@3 00 ₱ bushel; flaxseed at $1 45 in round lots; $1 50@1 60 in a small way; mion sets $3 00@3 50 ₱ bushel.

SYRUP AND MOLASSES—We quote country stock 15@20c ₱ gallon; best city make, No. 2, at 19c ₱ gallon with pay for barrels.

Provisions.

Provisions continue to show the firmness that has been heretofore noted, and while no quotable advance has taken place values are steadily strong. The results of the season's packing seems decidedly to favor the short crop theory, and high-priced hog products seems to be the prospect for the future. The only cause to counteract this tendency lies in the manner of the consumers, and it is to be expected that before any permanent advance is established a considerable demand will receive a decided check. These will not of course exercise any immediate effect, but its results will be expected later in the season. In the meantime receipts are moderate, though somewhat decreased, and we note a continuation of the active consumptive demand.

BACON—There was a strong feeling at quotations which are as follows: Shoulders 13½c ₱ pound; short rib sides 13½@13¾c; clear sides 14c.

CUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams were steady and in good demand at 13½@14c ₱ lb; sugar cured. Breakfast bacon rules steady and we quote sugar cured at 15c. Sugar cured shoulders were in good demand at 10½@11c. Dried beef, sugar cured, rules at 15c. Beef tongues, ₱ dozen, are quoted at ₱5 50.

LARD—The market is steady with a fair demand. We quote prime leaf lard in tierces at 11½@11¾c; refined lard in tierces 11½@11¾c ₱ lb; in half-barrels 12½@13c ₱ lb; in buckets 13½@14c; in 10-lb tins 14½@14¾c; in 5-lb pails 14½@15c ₱ lb; in 3-lb pails 15½@15¾c ₱ lb; in 1-lb pails 17c ₱ lb.

MESS PORK—The market is steady demand at easy prices. We quote extra winter-strained at $1 06 in jobbing way. No. 2 at $1 02½@1 03; farmers' oil, extra, 66@66c; No. 1, 61@63c.

HAM SAUSAGE—Continues steady at 9½@10c ₱ lb.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The feeling continues stagnant and unsatisfactory in grain circles, there being but a limited demand, and prices showing little life. The receipts show some falling off from those of last week, and were rather below the average. Wheat was steady and moderately firm for sound grades. The current rates are as follows: Michigan white at $1 40@1 45; Pennsylvania and Ohio red winter $1 30@1 34; amber $1 36@1 39; Northwestern red $1 36@1 38. Oats were firm and well sustained at $1 16@1 22; rejected do 99c@$1 16, as to quality; a quiet feeling prevails in spring oats. No. 1 rolling at $1 27@1 30. Corn is quiet and decidedly dull, with light receipts and easy values. We quote new shelled at 49@50c ₱ bushel; 47@48c for high-mixed; 45@47c for low-mixed; new ear 46@50c; old ear 50@52c; Kansas ear 52 @54c; mixed 45@47c. Oats showed no new features. The receipts were light, and the tendency is downward. We quote mixed at 39c; no quotable advance took place. Oats were rather quiet. We quote extra clipped white at 40@41c; white do at 42@43c; Western white 42 @44c. Barley is very stagnant at lower quotations; Canada two-rowed is held at $1 20@1 30; choice spring at $1 60@1 10; common to prime 88@96c. Rye quiet and easy at 76@80c ₱ bushel. Jobbing trade at the usual advance.

FLOUR—The demand for strictly choice grades of family flours continues very active, and while trade is principally to supply immediate needs, a fair business is done in the aggregate of business is quite large. Receipts are fairly up to the demand, and the tone is extending to-day. Prices are unchanged and steady, but no one approbends that values will go off. Buyers are paying full prices for sound grades, as the stock of such qualities is not large. The rates current are as follows for the most available trade of our mills: No. 1 white wheat flour $7 75 ₱ bbl; No. 1 amber $7 50@7 75; red winter flour $7 00; in sacks 25c off ₱ bbl. The jobbing prices of the leading dealers for standard brands of flours are as follows: Extra family, No. 1 white or winter wheat flour $7 00@7 25; white wheat flour $7 50@7 75; Western white wheat $8 00@8 25; Minnesota $6 50@6 75; fancy St. Louis $8 25@8 50; choice patents $8 50@9 00; red winter wheat flour $6 50@6 75; self-rising flour, in 6 ₱ packages, $5 ₱ dozen packages; cornmeal $5 ₱ bushel; oatmeal $5 25 ₱ bbl; kegs $3 50. Rye flour $5 00@5 25 ₱ bbl. Buckwheat flour 2@2½c ₱ lb for wholesale and retail business.

HAY—The remarkable influx of this staple has at last been somewhat checked by the low prices now ruling here, and the receipts for the week show a falling off, being 1,895 bales. Still the stock is far in excess of the demand, and prices continue at the same low figures noted as standard. We quote upland prairie $10 00@13 00 ₱ ton. No. 1 timothy $10 00@17 00; No. 2 $14 00@15 00.

FEED—There is a dull and depressed feeling at unchanged prices. We quote: No. 1 middlings Bran $14 00@15 00 ₱ ton; seconds and shipstuff $16 00@18 00; middlings and chopped feed $20 00@23 00.

Country Produce.

APPLES—There was a steady jobbing inquiry for small lots of choice fruit at full prices. Trade is almost wholly in a small way for immediate requirements, and transactions in round lots are hardly practicable. Values are not quotably changed, though they have perhaps a shade firmer to-day than yesterday. Receipts are moderate and the stock is not large. We quote choice $4 00@4 50 ₱ bbl; mixed lots ranging from $2 50@3 50 ₱ bbl.

BUTTER—There is no noticeable change in a jobbing way at 70@75c ₱ gallon.

BEANS—The market is stronger but not very active at the close, principally for small lots. We quote prime white navy from $1 80 to $1 90 ₱ bushel; in jobbing way the usual advance is obtained.

BEESWAX—The inquiry was only moderate and sales were confined to small lots. In the afternoon, the bear element continued hammering in a desultory way, but without venting on any large offers to sell. Notwithstanding this the tone of the market remained the same old story, and the feeling was firm enough and the price scarcely varied a fraction. We quote choice prime yellow at 30@32c ₱ lb.

REFINED—There was a dull and depressed tone to the refined market at former quotations. Eastern advices continued adverse and the tone of the crude market was against strength in refined. We quote standard white on the line at 10¾@10¾c; off A's in hundreds and thousand barrel lots, free on board at works. New York delivery rules rather easy at 14c for early March. Philadelphia is quoted at 10¾@10¾c for prompt and first half of the month. Baltimore rules at 10¾@10¾c for prompt.

OIL BARRELS—Remained without change and nominal at $1 15@1 20 for city made; $1 05 for country do.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

TITUSVILLE, March 8.—The *Herald* says: The crude petroleum markets of the region were rather irregular. Until opened at $1 20, declined to $1 10 and closed firm at $1 13¾. Union and Conduit were neglected and were quoted at $1 18⅝@1 20 at the close. Pipeage paid certificates were quoted at $2 07½. Pennsylvania Transportation Karns, Grant and Relief ruled at $1 18¾ bid, and Upper Creek at $2 10. The closing quotations at nine P. M. were:

	Bid.	Asked.
United, at wells	$1 93½	$1 93
Union, "	1 90	1 90
Pennsylvania Transportation	1 18¾	1 87½
Pipeage paid certificates	2 07½	2 08
Conduit, at wells	1 90	1 91½
Karns, at wells	1 18¾	1 87½
Grant, at wells	1 18¾	1 87½
Relief, at wells	1 18¾	1 87½
Oil City	2 10	2 12½
Lower Creek	2 10	2 12½
Upper creek	2 10	2

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1876.

THE cotton export trade of Philadelphia is growing rapidly. The exports from that port during the past four months were 38,822 bales, or more than double the shipments from Baltimore.

THE annual meeting of the "Natio al Union of Andersonville Survivors" will be held in Norwich, Connecticut, on the 12th of next April. We suggest that a special invitation be extended to BEN HILL to officiate as orator of the interesting occasion.

ACCORDING to the New York *Bulletin's* statement of pork packing at the six leading cities, during the season just ended, there is a falling off in the aggregate, compared with the season of 1874-5, of 300,811. The average net weight of hogs packed at these points last year was 209.74 pounds. Upon the basis of comparative weights indicated for this season, the average would be about 219½ pounds net, an increase of ten pounds, or about five per cent.

THE State Mining Inspector of Ohio has just published a book on mining, coals, etc., at his own expense. This method is a practice by public persons in Germany, and if we were to adopt it for all public reports, it would save large sums, besides improving the reports themselves. If an officer were charged with the examination of all such reports, with power to print a limited number of copies, and filled with appropriate matter, it would be an excellent move in the State Legislatures and Congress besides.

GOVERNOR BAGLEY, of Michigan, appeals to every citizen of that State who owns a piece of ground, to plant a tree on the 15th of April, this centennial year. It is a good suggestion, and might be adopted, not only in Michigan, but throughout the whole country, and a memorial tree planted by every American citizen owning a patch of American soil. A correspondent of the New York *Times* suggests that the 19th of April, 19, that is the anniversary of the first battle of the Revolution. It is to be hoped the suggestion may take root.

A RECENT Democratic investigation of the Georgia State railroad lease shows that some $21,000 were paid out to subsidize Democratic Georgia newspapers in its favor. The editor of the Atlanta *Constitution* got five thousand dollars, while the Macon *Telegraph*, Augusta *Constitutionalist*, and the Columbus papers received from three to five thousand each, and a few hundred were distributed among the small country papers. None of these bought-up editors were Yankees, carpet-baggers or "niggers," but all simon pure Southern chivalry of the Democratic persuasion. It is sad.

THE official statistics of the export trade of Philadelphia, last month, as given in Saturday's *North American*, show an increase of $1,805,965 as compared with the corresponding month of last year, the total being $3,389,797, of which $1,451,145 was in American vessels and $1,938,652 in foreign vessels. The principal commodities were: Indian corn, $928,815; wheat, $149,122; flour, $40,594; coal, $24,624; cotton, $126,417; hides, $81,831; iron manufactures, $233,788; leather, $65,262: petroleum, crude, $44,170; petroleum, refined, $444,222; provisions, $910,-575; tallow, $118,019; leaf tobacco, $63,375, and cooperage, $147,831.

ONE of the chief lessons to be derived from the terrible story which is in all men's mouths is the paramount importance of seeking out the best men in the country to fill its places of trust, high and low. We have an abiding faith in the honesty and integrity of the heart of the people, and never did a more imperative necessity exist that the people shall take right hold of the matter and fight it out. There is only one secret of good government and that is, honest men in office; and the great work of political reform must be accomplished in the same manner in which a house is built—from the foundations upward.

A CONVENTION of some importance, composed of the manufacturers of the West, will be held in Chicago on the 19th of next September, for an interchange of ideas and sentiments and comparison of processes, results, etc., in connection with all branches of manufacture in the entire West. The importance to the manufacturing interests of that section of such a convention needs no comment. The vital points in respect to local interests of each city in the West, detailed knowledge of home and foreign markets, products, capital invested and causes of bankruptcy, with a variety of other interesting features, will be considered and laid before the convention, together with questions of cheap transportation, reduction of railroad freight tariffs and taxation, and other matters of kindred interest.

JOHN BRIGHT has had the wind taken out of his sails by DISRAELI. He imagined he was making excellent progress with a certain plan for the redistribution of land, based on his estimate that there are at present only 30,000 persons in all England. At the instance of the Government, an official return was ordered a year or two ago, the results of which have just been published. It turns out that Mr. BRIGHT was short in his calculation by no less a number than 942,836, the entire number of actual holders of land being 972,836 Of course a large number of these own only the land upon which their houses stand, but, in order to leave Mr. BRIGHT without a leg to stand upon, and in anticipation of his objection, it is found that the number of persons in England who own more than an acre of land is 269,547. Probably 30,000 really do own, among them, the great bulk of the land, while all the rest are very small landed proprietors; but still he ought to have been more accurate in his figures.

THE Democratic papers are as dumb as oysters concerning the testimony drawn out on the cross-examination of Governor TILDEN during the TWEED trial in New York last week. He was examined by FIELD for the defense, to show that his relations with TWEED precluded the idea that he believed the Boss to be corrupt, and to test his forgetfulness of certain political schemes in which TWEED and himself were associated. In the outset the Governor insisted that he had never known the Boss intimately at all, and then he began to forget everything that leaned toward jogging his memory. As length FIELD asked him if he had ever written to TWEED. His answer was, "No, never." Then FIELD handed him a letter addressed to TWEED, and signed by TILDEN, and asked him to identify it. TILDEN did so. It was a letter telling TWEED when the Democratic National Executive Committee met. He was closely questioned as to other letters, and denied he wrote any, and denied, also, that TWEED ever gave any considerable sum to help the party while he (TILDEN) was at the head of the Democratic State Central Committee; but FIELD produced two more letters, written in 1866 and 1868, and also a check for $5,000, indorsed by TILDEN, which the Governor was compelled to acknowledge having appropriated for the benefit of the Democratic Party. Letters of this sort in the BABCOCK trial would have been fatal to the accused.

THE directors of that recently burglarized bank at Northampton, Mass., say that, while conversing with New York detectives in regard to their loss, they have been frequently assured that Boss TWEED is still concealed in that city. It is more than likely to be true. When the great Democratic robber escaped through the connivance of the Democratic Sheriff of New York, the Democratic Governor of the State, TILDEN, announced that, unless TWEED was immediately recaptured, he should remove the Sheriff from office. TWEED has not been recaptured, however, nor has the Governor made any move toward removing the Sheriff. Moreover, not a Democratic paper has censured this course. On the contrary, TILDEN has been beslobbered with praise as a possible candidate for President, by the Democratic press. It has also been proved, by the Governor's own sworn evidence, that he was in intimate personal and political association with TWEED, while the latter was plundering the city right and left, and that he took five thousand dollars from TWEED for campaign purposes, the money being notoriously stolen from the New York taxpayers. This is quite as much a part of the current news of the day as the story of BELKNAP's downfall, but the Democratic papers are unable to find room for even the slightest reference to it. Their pretense of being virtuously shocked at official misconduct is a hypocritical sham, ously expressing itself when the wrong-doer happens to be a Republican and they see a chance of making a little party capital out of a public shame.

THE "BAD LANDS" OF THE WEST.

In the light of recent military and scientific explorations, the "bad lands" of the West, or that extent of country known as the "Great American Desert," include a vast expanse, in which are considerable portions of several States and all of several great Territories, the whole area being much larger than the area of the twenty-seven States east of the Mississippi river. In all that domain, the ordinary crops of agriculture are uncertain and unreliable, and in nearly all of it they are altogether impracticable without irrigation. This area of uncertain crops embraces part of Central Texas, western part of Indian Territory, part of Kansas, central part of Nebraska, and considerable portions of Dakota and Minnesota. There is an area of similar uncertainty in the southern part of the State of California, and embracing about one-fifth of that State. To be more specific, the "Great American Desert" embraces one-third of Texas, nearly a third of Kansas, about one-half of Nebraska, seven-eighths of Dakota, one-fifth of Minnesota, all of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and about two thirds of California, Oregon and Washington. Here is an area of very nearly one-half of the entire territory of the United States! Not more than two per cent. of this vast region can ever be redeemed by irrigation—a territory not exceeding in extent the State of Ohio. The facts developed by explorations made within the past few years, force the conclusion, therefore, that nearly all the wide domain above described is and must remain wholly worthless for agricultural purposes. Grazing may be profitably pursued in many sections, and about one per cent. of the whole is covered with forest trees. The aggregate is so immense that even this small proportion of woodland is no inconsiderable element in estimating the resources of the country. But this great sandy, ashy realm is not, "barren" in the sense that it is incapable of producing anything. To affirm this, would be to make as grave a blunder as to assert that it can be made "to blossom as the rose." There is incalculable wealth in the mines of this great desert; and the indications are that, within the next few years, hundreds of thousands of those who have been thrown idle by the panic, will flock to these mines in quest of gold, silver, copper, lead and other minerals. Already the tide is beginning to set in towards the Black Hills, and beyond; and it would not be surprising if the excitement which followed the discovery of gold in California, in 1849 would be witnessed, during the next few years, in a greatly intensified form. The Pacific Railroad has performed an important part in the ascertainment of the true condition of this region, and also in aiding in its development in certain parts; and as these mineral resources are unquestionably greater in the northern portions, the completion of the Northern Pacific road becomes a matter of paramount importance. The development of the rich mines in the Black Hills, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, would employ millions of capital now unproductive, and give work to tens of thousands of idle hands. It would restore confidence in business, bring about general prosperity, and pave the way to an easy solution of the financial problem. In this view, the recommendation of General SHERIDAN, to the Military Committee of the House, for the immediate establishment of two military posts on the Yellowstone, for the protection of treasure-seeking miners, is eminently proper and practical, and should be favorably received. He thinks two posts could be established at an outlay of $200,000. Once the tide of emigration begins to move, it will continue to spread until the whole region is thoroughly prospected; and if the richest mines are elsewhere than in the Black Hills, the adventurous gold seekers will not be long in finding them out. The Government should make every possible provision for encouraging and facilitating the development of these mines, and one of the first steps is to extend the amplest protecion to the persons and property of the miners.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION.

The paltry attempt of Mr. CLYMER, to make party capital out of the crime committed by Mr. BELKNAP, was unworthy of him. A ward politician might be expected to be such a course; but a man who aspires to be a statesman should be able to take a broader and more sensible view of things. Mr. BELKNAP's crime did not grow out of his politics, but out of a vain social ambition, which pervades the entire country and is not confined to any one rank, party or degree.

Yet it is certain that the Democrats, as a party, are mean enough to make this use of the occurrence; and the Republican party must meet it by showing that it is not amenable to such a reproach.

It can do this in one way, just now, and in one way only. It must take care, in making its nominations to office, to avoid the selection of candidates open to suspicion or upon whom the slightest taint has fallen. We must have no more of such nominations as that of KING, of Minnesota; and if any man capable of fraud, or any one upon whom the legal suspicion of fraud has been cast, is presented for nomination let him be sent to Coventry at once. This is not a time to make experiments upon public credulity, or to test party fidelity by presenting candidates who are weighted down with accusations. The people will not stand it, and the party cannot afford to try it. Men with clean hands are the only ones who can inspire public confidence.

As to Mr. CLYMER's diatribe, he might have been reminded that right along side of him, sitting there as a Democratic member of Congress, was a man from Brooklyn to whose corrupt hands the sum of some hundreds of thousands of dollars were traced in the Pacific Mail investigations, which have never yet been accounted for. A Democratic House permits him to sit there, and vote for the impeachment of lesser rogues than himself, and no Democratic questions his right to do so. His corrupt offense has been condoned by his Democratic colleagues, and it does not become them to cite BELKNAP's crime as an illustration of corruption in Republican ranks. Let them punish their own thieves, and they can then help us to punish ours with more gracefulness and consistency.

THE Boston *Advertiser* gives a very interesting account of the remarkable temperance crusade recently inaugurated in the eastern part of that State. The movement, which is scarcely three months old, began, it appears, in the town of Marblehead, where, out of a total population of about 8,000, the signers of the pledge, including women and children, already number five thousand. The reform club, composed of men who have given up drinking, has over six hundred members, and what was generally known as a town where intemperance was exceedingly common, has now thrown such influence the other way that the dram shops are deserted, cases of intoxication are extremely rare, and but few drunkards, it is said, are yet unconverted. The *Advertiser* states that the genuineness of the movement is shown also in other ways. The hardness of the times has practically disappeared; the taxes are paid promptly; very few cases of poverty have come to the local authorities for help, and none where liquor was the cause. The reform has not ended with the giving up of drinking. Provision has been made for the entertainment of workingmen and youths outside of saloons; reading and smoking rooms have been organized for use in the day and evening, and practical measures have been taken for the permanent lifting up of those who are down. The foremost men in drink have become foremost in efforts to elevate one another, and the movement from the first has started from moral, if not religious, convictions. It is the motto of the leader in the reform—a graduate of the Harvard Medical College, a physician by profession, in the prime of life, a man of strong sympathies and clear head, who has suffered personally from the evils from which he now seeks to deliver his fellows—that men cannot hold fast to the pledge unless the mind, heart and will are engaged in the work, and thus the whole movement is based upon right principles. It is moral suasion. It is bringing men to sign the pledge and then teaching them how to keep it. It is the practical amelioration and what looks like the permanent elevation of this part of society. The *Advertiser* says:

"The movement has some elements which thus commend it strongly. It is organized, not upon a political, but upon a moral basis. It bands men together in good works for one another. In Hosse county, in Gloucester, Salem, Lowell and other places, where a similar movement has been begun, it has already sent many men to places of religious worship who once spent Sunday in debauchery, and has been felt as an upward tendency in homes, in churches, in business and throughout most departments of life. It has aimed to change public opinion by changing the wills and habits of those who help to make it. All these elements are commendable and permanent, and the movement has so far been marked by such good sense that it is likely to go through our Commonwealth, and work great results. If it can go on as it has begun, keep clear of political influence, touch the hidden springs of society, work, where every great reform has its power, in people's wills and hearts, it will be what many have longed to see, and will win to itself, as substantial help, all the best elements in social life."

THE heart-sickening developments yesterday brought to light concerning Secretary BELKNAP'S corrupt practices in the administration of his office, fell upon the people like a revelation from the abyss. What extenuating circumstances, if any, there may be connected with the case, are yet to be shown; but nothing, except the sackcloth and ashes of unfeigned, lifelong repentance, can atone his guiltiness in the minds of those who have trusted and honored him so well. We have no maudlin sympathy to waste upon him, any more than on any other wrong-doer. In our view, indeed, his exalted official position as a member of the National Republican Administration during his hidden courses does but serve to intensify the grievousness of his offense, and grievously should he be made to answer it. Whatever evidences may hereafter be adduced in mitigation of his crime, the vital fact that he has shamefully abused and betrayed the confidence which the President, his brother Cabinet officers and the people of the country reposed in him, remains. But all considerations, except those of inflexible justice, should be rigorously put aside. Let him have a fair, unprejudiced trial on the charges of which he stands impeached, and suffer his deserts accordingly. The plain, earnest, patriotic people who preserved the country in its time of peril, and who constitute the bulk of the Republican party now, do not propose to permit the noble institutions which they helped to found, to strengthen, or the great party of Liberty and Progress which sprang from their loins, to be overturned or dragged in the mire, if they can prevent it. And they can prevent it, and *will*. This centennial year is to witness the victorious uprising of the popular conscience against political corruption, in all its forms, just as the year 1861 witnessed the moral uprising of the people against the horrible despotism of slavery. Let every public servant, whether of high or low degree, take good heed. The other, and deeper lesson, to be learned from this humiliating exposure, consists in the terribly vivid illustration it affords of the benumbing, paralyzing influences which the showy materialism and the passionate money-greed and mammon-worship of the age exert upon the noblest and strongest natures. The bane of our civilization may be expressed in three words: *Auri sacra fames*. And it is an accursed thirst.

COMMENTING upon General SCHENCK'S alleged implication in the miserable "Emma Mine" scandal, the Chicago *Tribune* quotes a portion of the testimony of LYON to the effect that SCHENCK had been obliged to pay seven hundred dollars for a single dress to be worn by one of the ladies of his family at the Queen's drawing-room, and that the dress could only be used on one occasion, and drives home the point in embroidering in the following direct and forcible manner:

"General Schenck is only one of a large class, and the costly dress is only one illustration out of thousands of that dreadful expenditure and profligate waste of money in fashionable families which is the secret of so many business failures and irregularities in this country. Female extravagance and fashionable profligacy are causing too many of our business men to live beyond their means, and to spend every year a sum of money far in excess of what their income will warrant. It is these causes which, more than all others combined, are goading men on to dishonorable acts, and which every day are driving men into bankruptcy and moral and physical ruin. The fashionable mania will continue until reform in the family commences. When the female side of the household drops the fashionable folly, and reckless and extravagant waste of money, and lives within its means, it may be possible for business men to conduct their business without going into bankruptcy, and to the fearful effects on men's money without obtaining it by disreputable means. More than one of the recent failures in this city has been caused, not by legitimate business causes, but by enormous family expenditures wasted upon fashionable follies. Is there a better time than the centennial year to return to the old-fashioned decorum of living which the mothers of the family and to the practice of economy?"

At the very time these vigorous and truthful words were penned, a yet more ghastly skeleton was being dragged to light from the domestic closet of a high Government official on this side of the water, having its origin in exactly the same wretched frivolity, extravagance and passion for display. The great needs of the age, in this country, are, public servants with men and dignity who can represent the intrinsic simplicity of Republican institutions—and wives who can be true helpmeets unto them.

UTTERLY unjustifiable and indefensible as BELKNAP'S crime was, it is nevertheless the duty of legislative bodies to retain some regard for the truth of historical statements. Mr. CLYMER, it will be remembered, charged in his place in the House that the late Secretary of War had been guilty of crimes unknown before in the history of our own or any other country. There is no charge, however, as the Washington correspondent of the New York *Mail* vividly points out, that he, in any way, subverted Government funds, or diverted funds that should have gone to the public treasury to his private purposes; that he aided his country's enemies, or plotted how to betray her life by placing the nation's arms, intrusted to his care for her defense in time of need, just where he knew the open enemies of the nation would find them ready for their use when time should come for the breaking out of long-plotted war, as, not many years ago, did a certain Democratic Secretary of War named FLOYD. Neither is there any charge that he scattered over the face of the seas the country's men-of-war, so that when needed the betrayed land should not be able to summon her war vessels to her aid, as did a Democratic Secretary of the Navy named TOUCEY. Neither any charge that, in abandoned his seat in the councils of the nation to hasten to put him, self at the head of her foes, as did a Democratic ex-Secretary of War named JEFFERSON DAVIS. Not one of these grave charges that have been proved against others holding as exalted positions under the Government as himself, are even hinted at. BELKNAP'S downfall is terrible enough, but the Democratic party has embraced many a trusted and honored leader whose moral turpitude altogether outmatches his for blackness.

THERE is a growing conviction that Secretary BRISTOW'S report of the coin balance in the United States Treasury has killed the forced resumption scheme. There are but two ways anybody has yet been able to discover by which we can resume: First, by the accumulation of gold by increasing the interest-bearing debt in the purchase of gold, and second, by a contraction of the present volume of currency to the point at which our present and possible volume of specie would float it at par, say a contraction of one-half the present volume of currency. Nobody has ever yet been able to suggest any other methods. No party could go with any hope of success before any Middle or Western State in the advocacy of either of these methods for resumption. These propositions being true, all that is necessary, in this direction, is the repeal of the resumption act. Without legislation, between the years 1869 and 1873, the volume of currency remaining the same, the currency of the country appreciated twenty-four per cent. With the present volume of currency remaining the same, and a cessation of strife in and out of Congress on this question, the margin between paper and specie would in a few more years be little or nothing, and thus we should at length "resume." Either of the other methods mentioned will bring defeat to whoever attempts them. The country simply demands the repeal of the Resumption act, leaving the whole matter of paying specie on our demand notes just where it is left by them, and our circumstances: pay as soon as we have specie to pay with.

THE Washington correspondent of the Buffalo *Express* relates a curious story of a novel method invented by "Fort Pillow" FORREST to re-enslave colored men and reduce the Republican vote in the South. He has, it appears, bought an island in the Mississippi river, known as President's Island, containing about 6,000 acres, and situated some five or six miles below Memphis, and has made a contract with the city for the labor of the city convicts, payat the rate of ten cents for each day's work. Under the operation of this contract the magisterial machinery in Memphis is run at an astonishingly high pressure, and negroes are arrested very promptly upon the most ridiculous pretexts. When once brought before the courts they are sentenced six months in almost every case, and are immediately sent to President's Island, where they are employed by FORREST in cutting the timber with which the island is densely covered. This, of course, is an exceedingly satisfactory arrangement for all concerned, except the victims. FORREST makes a good thing of it; the city is relieved not only of its criminals and paupers, but also of a large percentage of Republican voters who are neither criminals nor paupers, and at the same time, the convictions being very numerous, a considerable amount of money is paid into the city treasury. Doubtless FORREST treats his "laborers" decently and humanely. The history of the infernal massacre of colored troops at Fort Pillow should be a sufficient guaranty of that!

AUSTRIA is strongly Catholic, but the Government of that country is gradually coming up to the same church policy which gives the Pope so much trouble in Switzerland, Germany and Italy. A law on monastic institutions has just been adopted in the House of Peers, which establishes the right of the State to carry out a regular inspection and visitation of the cloisters. It also makes the acquisition of landed property by religious orders dependent on the permission of the Minister for Public Worship. Another provision of the bill restricts the intercourse of the religious orders with foreign superiors who assert for themselves universal dominion. The measure will be likely to prove a great curb on monasticism. It seems, however, to be the Pope's present policy to isolate Prussia in the church policy. He therefore closes his eyes for the moment against what is going on at Vienna and in Southern Germany, in order to concentrate all the energy of the Romanist party upon an attack against Northern Germany. But we suspect BISMARCK is not greatly durried.

POLITICAL.

State.

In Warren borough the Prohibitionists elected eleven candidates out of sixteen.

Thomas J. Smith has been chosen Representative delegate from Snyder county to the Democratic State Convention.

Captain S. H. Briggs has been elected Representative delegate from Wyoming county to the Republican State Convention.

Captain W. B. Weber has been elected Representative delegate from Mifflin county to the Democratic State Convention.

Hon. A. G. Brodhead and Allen Craig are the Representative delegates from Carbon county to the Democratic State Convention.

Jas. H. Harbaugh and William Donshoe have been elected delegates to the Democratic State Convention by the county committee of Bedford county.

At a delegate meeting in Scranton on the 22d ult., Hon. F. W. Gunster and F. A. Beamish were chosen Representative delegates to the Democratic State Convention.

J. B. McCollum has been chosen Senatorial, and H. W. Tyler and E. M. Tiffany Representative delegates to the Democratic State Convention from Susquehanna county.

The Democratic county committee or Franklin county on Tuesday last elected B. H. Reisher, H. M. White and Augustus Duncan delegates to the Democratic State Convention.

The Potter *Journal* says: "After General John F. Hartranft, Pennsylvania's able and honest Governor, we are heartily and energetically for General Sherman or Secretary Bristow."

The Democratic Standing Committee of Cumberland county have chosen B. K. Goodyear Senatorial and John W. Wetzel and E. Hayward Representative delegates to the Lancaster Convention.

The Watsontown *Record* refuses to support Curtin for Vice President, on the ground that he is not a Democrat. It believes his nomination would be as fatal as the Greeley movement of four years ago.

The Democratic county committee of Somerset county have selected the following delegates to the State Convention: Senatorial, Hon. A. H. Coffroth; Representatives, John H. Uhl and George W. Kimmell.

Berks county will be represented in the Democratic State Convention by the following delegates: George F. Baer, Martin Yoder, George W. Bruckman, William K. Hale, Rudolphi Heinly, Daniel Deatrich, W. H. Potteiger.

At a meeting of the Blair county Democratic Committee, held at Hollidaysburg on Saturday, 4th inst., Dr. Rowan Clark was elected Senatorial, and George J. Akers and H. L. Bunker Representative delegates to the Democratic State Convention.

The Cambria county Democratic Committee have called the county convention for May 22d. R. S. Johnston, of Ebensburg, and H. D. Woodruff, of Johnstown, were chosen delegates to the State Convention, and A. J. Christy, F. A. McCormick and John Conn, Senatorial conferees.

The Democratic County Committee of Mercer county met on the 1st inst. and selected George W. Herbert, Senatorial delegate (subject to conference with conference county), and P. J. Pierce, C. W. Heydrick and G. G. Carnes, Representative delegates to the Lancaster Convention. They were instructed to present James A. Garfield as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis.

Speaking of the Republican Presidential nomination, the Titusville *Courier*, Democratic, says: "Hartranft possesses a large amount of reserved strength, and it appears to be well husbanded. Among his friends may be reckoned some of the shrewdest and most successful political managers in this country. It is moreover coming to be pretty well understood that Hartranft is the only Republican in the Union that can possibly carry the Keystone State this year. This is a most important fact."

The latest revised list of candidates for the Republican nomination for Sheriff in Blair county is as follows: David Smith, Jacob Stevens and Edward Bell, of Tyrone borough; Wm. Logan, of Tyrone township; Thomas Bell, of Bellwood; Wm. Lingle, Henry Elway, John R. Garden, John M. Clark and H. B. Huff, of Altoona; James M. Sifflier, of Allegheny; George Fay, of Woodcock valley, and David Geesey, of Hollidaysburg. Mr. Over is editor of the Hollidaysburg *Register*.

At the Montgomery county Democratic convention held in Norristown, on the 29th ult., the following were chosen delegates to represent Montgomery county at the State Convention, to be held in Lancaster on the 22d inst.: Senatorial, Dr. John Hood; Peter Evans, Jonathan M. Hart, Clinton Rorer and Dr. Chas. T. Waage. Efforts were made to have the delegates favor Hon. Thos. A. Boyd for Governor, but not for the Presidency, also the Hon. Jer. A. Black, but during a discussion of the question a motion to adjourn prevailed. The delegation, therefore, were not instructed.

At this distance it looks as if a man who has been before the people five times as a candidate, and was beaten the last time in a strong Republican district, by a Democrat, that his chances for an election are not very good, even if he be nominated. Republicans outside of the Twenty-second district, who are not interested either than politically, think that some man should be nominated whose success is certain. But such men as Negley, who drag the party down, should be allowed to remain down, while some other person assists in placing the party above, where it belongs.—*Johnstown Tribune.*

General.

Mr. Horace White, formerly the editor of the Chicago *Tribune*, has been chosen a member of the Advisory Committee of the Boston Free Trade Club, in place of the late Beverly Chew.

The discovery of the shame of a Cabinet Minister will not convince the people that the Democrats are competent to rule the nation with wisdom. It will require something more than the crimes of a few men to demonstrate that the party which precipitated the war upon the country, would not hesitate to govern it with as little patriotism or honesty than the one which subdued the rebellion, but has produced some thieves.—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

This is not the first time in the annals of the nation that the head of the War Department has been accused of grave offenses. Secretary Floyd, during his service in the Cabinet, without right or law, stripped Northern arsenals to replenish Southern depositories of arms. He was indicted by the Grand Jury of the District of Columbia as being privy to the abstraction of $870,000 in bonds from the Department of the Interior in the winter of 1860, and failed to appear for trial.—*Boston Transcript.*

"Why, damn a country where a man can't tell what party he belongs to if he goes from one State into another." This is a remark which fell from the lips of Hon. Charles Foster, of Ohio, when his attention was called to the diversified character of the platforms adopted by the Republicans in the various States.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.* Well, that remark hits the *Enquirer*, for what it preaches poss not find favor in Kentucky where it circulates, nor has its "Ohio doctrine" captured the Democracy of this State. Sam Cary and his gang may think so, but they are not all the people, "by a large majority."—*Cleveland Plaindealer, Dem.*

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Winter, as Forecordained. Not a Success—The Lenten Season—Spring Fashions in Suits, Costumes, Hats and Lingerie.

[From our own Correspondent.]

NEW YORK, February 28, 1876.

This winter, past now, according to the almanac, was foreordained to be a cold one by fashion, which has grown so accustomed to having its mandates obeyed, that it quite forgot to provide for the possible emergency of a mild one. Everything was to be fur, or furry, and with the curious species of psychological deception we can, and do so often, practice upon ourselves, the dealers in furs, believing that they wished to believe, laid in large stocks, and find them now upon their hands, with no chance of sale before next December, and the possibility of a change in style, depriving their goods of half their value.

Hard times to be a dealer in furs in an uncertain climate like this; one would think they would all feel like emigrating to Russia. There is one garment, however, which will outlast the present season, and that is the round silk cloak lined with fur. Under the conditions which exist for women in society at large it is exactly what they need for a "wrap," and it will be likely to take a permanent place.

Fashionable women who live in well warmed and perfectly ventilated houses do not need and do not wear much warmer clothing in winter than they do in summer, except when they walk. What they require mainly is a thoroughly warm wrap to put over their thin clothing, protect them at the theater or opera, and in stepping from the warmth of indoors to a carriage; and for these purposes nothing could be better devised than this fur lined wrap which envelops the whole person, but not being embarrassed by sleeves, does not crush the lighter dress. Moreover the cost of the garment, the rich fabrics of which it is composed, and the clasps of wrought and precious metal which have been introduced to give them the requisite finish, all show that they will neither be common nor short-lived.

LENT.

The gay season is over until Easter (which occasions a little revival) and Lent has begun, bringing to many a blessed sense of relief. The office of "society" women is no sinecure now-a-days, notwithstanding that fewer private entertainments are given than formerly. But the business of regular "receptions" occupies a vast amount of time, and the machinery of charities and charitable entertainments still more.

It is a more curious fact that there never were so many "institutions," never so much money expended in keeping them alive, (a charity is always a popular kind) more fashionable than now, yet if a case of real and desperate need appears there is no machinery for providing it. A new institution has to be created with a complete corps of officers and magnificent expensive buildings and an annual disbursement of many thousands of dollars to meet it.

But to return to Lent. Having few holidays of our own, we are beginning to adopt those of our neighbors, and of other countries, irrespective of their particular traditions or religious observances.

Mardi Gras is the last added to the list, and will soon become the synonym for fancy dress parties of a peculiar and somewhat eccentric type. Mardi Gras, this year, was celebrated in a hundred different ways by persons who, ten years ago, had never heard of it. Pound parties, "candy-pull" parties, "Dickens" parties, "Mother Goose" parties, "old-time" parties and others *ad infinitum*.

The "pound" parties are new this season, and the proceeds are always used for a charitable object.

Invited guests take with them a pound of anything they choose, and label it according to the wit and sense at their command. Of course there is scope for much humor and fun, which is perfectly allowable, if it does not degenerate into coarseness; but when you buy a pound of real shell jewelry and find a live lobster in a box, there is room for disappointment.

There is not enough High Church among us to make Lent very much a season of fasting and humiliation.

The latest fad of this kind is done is from a practical and hygienic, rather than a religious point of view. People stop giving parties because some people do not go to them, and because it is a trouble and an opportunity for the peformance of household duties, and the making of necessary preparations to meet the spring when it comes. Many girls take the opportunity it affords them of getting themselves up in entirely different style, and think it looks foreign and romantic to wear black and go out in the morning to church just as the ingenue men are going down town.

CHURCH DRESS.

Black is always a favorite church-going dress in New York city, and particularly is it so this season in conjunction with the cream and ivory tints. A woman can hardly help feeling devotional in a really handsome black silk suit, with cream colored hat, trimmed with cream colored cachemire lace, ivory silk tie, and ivory tinted gloves.

The perfect serenity, statisfaction and thankfulness, that we are not as other people are, in every line and fold of it. Nothing loud, no contrast of high colors is ever worn at church as really fashionable or well bred woman. It would show that is worse than irreligion, "bad taste," and after all there is connection between taste and morality, whether piety has much to do with it or not. In this matter, however, we only imitate our French cousins, and we are of late years imitating them also in the substitution of fine soft, black cachemire for silk. Black cachemire dresses are in preparation this season as fashionably and extensively as last, for spring, church and street wear, always associated more or less with black silk, usually of the soft, hand-finished kind. The simplest and most popular method of making them is with a trimmed or puffed front, shirred sides and draped back, sleeves in which lengthwise puffings of silk are inserted, and a cuirass basque, the latter being now universal, unless the dress is cut in the princesse style.

The fine "knife" pleatings which have been so well worn are this season used to edge shirred flounces, instead of being empty to form the entire trimming of a skirt, and therefore less material is required, while the effect is even better than before.

Flat folds, bands and braids are also coming into vogue so rapidly that many of the spring suits, and costumes will be completed without the addition of a flounce or a ruffle.

SPRING STYLES.

The whole winter has been so much like spring, the exceeding mildness of the temperature rendering it impossible to wear very heavy clothing, that it seems hardly worth while speaking of spring fashions, as involving any great change in the actual character of clothing.

Heavy cloth suits prepared for a season something like the preceding winter of 1874 in intensity and severity have, in many cases, not been brought out, the silks, cachemires and light beiges worn in the fall, having seemed so much more suitable. What is really needed, therefore, among the majority of ladies, are the suits for demi season, composed of standard fabrics, and for these there is already a very active demand. The new materials, so far as they have made their appearance, present a handsome variety. They are in checks, clear plaids and stripes, and the large meshed net and lace patterns which were so fashionable last year. The stripes are used in combination in fine suits, and are trimmed with a plain material put on in bias folds, but the checks are generally used for trimming for sleeveless basque and overskirt, or for puffings without sleeves, the latter being still made of the same material as the principal skirt and different (when the dress is composed of more materials) from the basque.

The pretty striped cambrics and percales are most suitable for making up into summer suits for young girls for country wear, and need only be supplemented by a white linen or pique suit, a summer silk for church wear, and a beige, or alpaca, to be all sufficient for an outfit.

The fewer dresses made and kept on hand now-a-days, the better, the labor upon them being so difficult and costly, the renewal so necessary in order to avoid singularity when the fashions change.

Many economies are introduced now, however, and adopted by people of pretensions to style and elegance, which would not have been thought of a few years ago. Certainly a much more honest and healthful spirit exists now, than then, for they do not hesitate to avoid the methods by which they secure the gaudy effects so comparatively little cost. Pink and blue batiste is used, for example, under muslin or tarlatane, for evening toilettes for young ladies, instead of silk, as they are not only cheaper but most useful, for when the tarlatane is gone the batiste, instead of being soiled and worn like silk, is good as ever, and makes the prettiest of all summer morning dresses.

Batiste employed in this way is particularly useful for summer evening dresses in the country or watering place wear, where silk suffers severely, and may be alternated with a pretty costume of ivory barage trimmed with garnet ribbon, or covered with lace boddice and tablier overskirts.

The material for these toilettes cost a mere trifle; it is the making which brings the price. Of course if the material used it would be therefore a very good plan for young ladies, even if they are daughters of "well-to-do" parents, to learn to make their own clothing, if they have the time and inclination.

It would be of untold advantage to the majority of girls, if on leaving school they would devote two or three hours a day for six months to practice under a first-rate dressmaker, not for pay, but thankfully giving their work for the knowledge they gain. There are no possible circumstances in life when such knowledge will not prove useful to a woman, while the revelation which comes with every added experience of the power and possibilities which lie in our practiced fingers, is of incalculable benefit at every step in our pathway. Not a thing that we really see, and know, but can be turned to account; and it is the possession of these resources and experiences which makes people rich; it is those who are desitute of them who are poor.

THE PRINCESSE DRESS.

The clinging style of dress which still prevails, and is likely to do so for some time to come, has revived the princesse dress and the princesse polonaise.

The design is used in modified forms for very simple and very elaborate toilettes, for elegant dresses of ceremony made of rich silk, satin and velvet, and for morning dresses of cambric, linen or simple print. The more costly fabrics are enriched by beautiful hand embroidery, by lace and other trimmings placed upon the front, down the sides and as a flounce at the back, but the plain morning dresses are finished with a gathered flounce only as what is known as the Spanish flounce, forming part of the skirt not put on merely as trimming.

A well-cut princesse polonaise forms a good model for an ordinary morning dress, to which a flounce can be attached and which it elongates sufficiently.

The princesse polonaise is not considered "dress;" it is an article for *negligé* and is a graceful style for checked beige and other serviceable woolen fabrics. Later it will be used for linen, batiste and pique, with an appendage at the side employed for the double purpose of looping up the skirt and holding the fan.

This novelty has the appearance of a chatelaine, to which pincers are attached connected with a small exquisitely formed hand. It is composed of a double chain and double agraffe with a hook at the top, and is made in old or burnished silver or gilt. This form of polonaise is one particularly desirable for single summer materials, and is in harmony with the present adherence to strict forms. It is a good form for "selling," that is, covering with some thin, lace-like fabric, and will be selected on that account by ladies of refined, intelligent taste.

For summer morning or indoor wear, pronounced white styles are prettily made up in white muslin or Victoria lawn, the seams brought together on the outside, and covered with narrow insertion, and the whole garment made up without lining. Sashes will not be worn with these princesse styles, because the line of the waist must not be broken, but elongate naturally and smoothly into the fullness of the hips; but new belts are making their appearance, consisting of broad bands of velvet or leather, which fall below the waist line in the medi eval style, are drawn through a larger buckle upon the left hip and have the chatelaine attachments, or the new dress holder, suspended from the right.

SPRING HATS.

Ivory straws, chips and Panamas, a trifle smaller, perhaps, but not materially differing in shape from the winter hats, are the styles which are most prominent among the early importations. A favorite trimming for straws and chips consists of netted silk bandkerchiefs, arranged to cover the crown, two points falling in scarf ends at the back. The brim is turned up on one side with an elaborate bow of natte ribbon, with a fringe-like end for ornament.

Scarfs of cream colored silk or cashmere lace are very much used for trimmings, with flowers arranged in bouquet and trail at the back, and are usually mounted upon a band in front. The thick natte ribbons like satin woven in a basket pattern, are very rich, and work up beautifully as trimmings for the fine delicate tint of the straw fabrics. The shapes show signs of a return to the toque models, than which we have had nothing prettier.

BRAIDING AND EMBROIDERY.

If the early promise is fulfilled a great deal of braiding and embroidery will be expended upon suits, costumes and every description of spring garment. A novel application of needlework is made upon morning dresses and children's suits of white pique, and grey or brown linen by inclosing in a braided design which forms a double border, leaves, flowers, butterflies and birds marked out upon Turkey red cotton, appliqued on, and the material then cut away, leaving the figures in relief upon the white ground. This is not difficult, does not take a great deal of time, and is very effective. A great deal of this appliqué work will be done upon black Brussels net to form j